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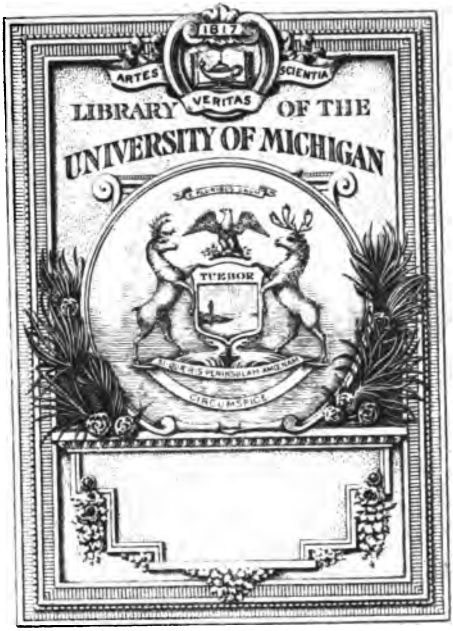

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TO

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

VOL. II.

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TO
NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

ILLUSTRATED WITH COPPER PLATES;

By WILLIAM NICHOLSON.

Non enim me cuiquam mancipavi, nullius nomen fero: multum magnorum virorum judicio credo, aliquid et meo vindico. Nam illi quoque, non inventa, ſed quaerenda, nobis reliquerunt. SENECA.

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SECT. III.

Of Fluids.

CHAP. I.

OF HYDROSTATICS; OR THE EFFECTS WHICH ARISE FROM THE GRAVITY OF FLUIDS.

A FLUID is a body whoſe parts readily yield A
to any impreſſion, and in yielding, are eaſily
moved amongſt each other.

The cauſe of fluidity is not perfectly known. B
Some are of opinion that the particles of fluids are ſpherical, and, in conſequence of their touching each other in few points, cohere very ſlightly, and eaſily ſlip or ſlide over each other. But that the particles of fluids are of the ſame nature or figure

as thoſe of ſolids, ſeems probable, from the very frequent converſion of the one into the other. It does not ſeem rational to ſuppoſe that the particles of gold, lead, glaſs, &c. when in fuſion, are rendered ſpherical by the action of the fire, and when that action ceaſes, that the particles reſume their former figure, as the bodies become ſolid by cooling. Neither can we eaſily imagine, that the particles of water are changed by cold, when it becomes a ſolid and brittle lump of ice, and are again reinſtated in their original form, when the ice, by diſſolution, is again turned to water.

C The original cauſe of fluidity, then, does not appear to conſiſt in the figure of the particles, but ſimply in their want of coheſion.

D If the particles of a body cohere ſtrongly together, it is evident that they will not eaſily move amongſt each other. An imperfect coheſion muſt therefore be one of the properties of a fluid maſs; and that the ſmallneſs of the particles is requiſite to fluidity, will appear by conſidering, that the ſurface of a body compoſed of ſmall particles muſt be much more ſmooth and even than the ſurface of a body compoſed of larger particles: that two flat bodies may be conceived to conſiſt of particles ſo ſmall, that their ſurfaces ſhall differ inſenſibly from perfect planes: that theſe bodies, if placed on each other, will ſlide without the leaſt ſenſible friction: and that if the particles of theſe bodies thus placed on each other be, by any means, deprived of the whole, or the greateſt part of their coheſion, the bodies will not only ſlide on each other in the juſt mentioned plane, but the parts of the maſs will alſo ſlide on each other in any other direction whatſoever. Conſequently they will readily yield to any impreſſion, and in yielding, be eaſily moved amongſt each other; that is, they will conſtitute a fluid maſs.

E But the enquiry, wherein conſiſts that change which bodies undergo when their conſiſtency is altered ſo as to make them aſſume a fluid form, either denſe and almoſt incompreſſible, or vaporous and elaſtic, belongs not to this place, but to chemiſtry.

F That ſcience, which treats of the effects ariſing from the weight of fluids, is called hydroſtatics.

G The parts of fluids are heavy; but becauſe the upper parts reſt upon, and are ſuſtained by, the parts beneath, and becauſe, by the property of fluids, the parts are readily moved in all directions, upwards as well as downwards, they do not at firſt conſideration appear to be heavy.

H The bottom of an upright priſmical or cylindrical veſſel is preſſed by the whole weight of the fluid contained; and as the weight of the fluid is in proportion to its height, ſo is likewiſe the preſſure. Thus, in the cylinder A B (fig. 114.) when filled to C, the bottom is preſſed by, or ſuſtains a certain weight, ſuppoſe one pound; if it be filled to D, the preſſure becomes two pounds; if to A, three pounds, &c. the heights between B, C, D, and A being ſuppoſed equal.

I The whole of any fluid maſs may be imagined to conſiſt of a number of columns of an inconſiderable thickneſs, which ſtand perpendicularly on the baſe of the containing veſſel, and preſs the ſame with their reſpective weights. The preſſure, then, if the height remain the ſame, is as the number of columns, and this number is as the area of the baſe.

K Conſequently in veſſels whoſe baſes differ as to area, and which contain fluids of the ſame denſity, but different heights, the preſſure will be in the compound ratio of the baſes and heights; that is, in numbers, as the area of the baſe multiplied by the height of the fluid in one veſſel, is to the area of the baſe multiplied by the height of the fluid in the other veſſel, ſo is the preſſure ſuſtained by the baſe of the one to the preſſure ſuſtained by the baſe of the other veſſel.

L In like ſituations, the preſſures of fluids will be as their denſities.

M The denſities being diſcoverable moſt readily by the different weights of bodies of the ſame bulk, the comparative denſities of bodies are therefore called their ſpecific gravities.

N If the columns of which a fluid maſs was ſuppoſed to conſiſt (3, 1) were formed of particles lying in perpendicular right lines, the preſſure of the fluid would be exerted on the bottom of the veſſel only; but, as they are ſituated in every irregular poſition, there muſt, of conſequence, be a preſſure exerted in every direction; which preſſure muſt be equal at equal depths. For if any part of the whole maſs were not equally preſſed on all ſides, it would move towards the ſide on which the preſſure was leaſt; and would not become quieſcent till ſuch equal preſſure was obtained. The quieſcence of the parts of fluids is therefore a proof that they are equally preſſed on all ſides.

On this account it is, that fluids, as far as they O are not prevented by external accidents, always conform their upper ſurface to the plane of the horizon. For if any column or part of the fluid be elevated above the reſt, it will deſcend partly by ſinking into the fluid, and partly by its lateral preſſure, that will cauſe it to ſpread ſideways over the ſurface, till it becomes uniformly of the ſame height, or horizontal.

The equal preſſure of fluids in every direction, P being underſtood, may be applied to account for many phenomena that happen to them in different circumſtances; ſome of which are the following.

The horizontal bottom of a veſſel is preſſed by, Q and ſuſtains no more nor leſs than the weight of a column of the fluid it contains, whoſe baſe is the bottom itſelf, and whoſe height is that of the fluid.

In the veſſel E C D F (fig. 115.) the bottom C D R ſuſtains no more than the column A B D C. For the other parts of the contained fluid can only preſs the column A B D C laterally, and therefore contribute not at all to the increaſe of the weight or preſſure on the bottom C D; but reſt intirely on the ſides E C and F D.

Alſo in the veſſel E C D F, (fig. 116.) the bottom E F ſuſtains a preſſure equal to the weight of a column whoſe baſe is E F, and height equal to C A.

For the preſſure at A B is equal to the weight of the column A B D C, and its lateral preſſure, which is equal to the ſame weight, muſt cauſe the parts between E A and B F to preſs the bottom with an equal force in proportion to the ſurfaces they cover. Conſequently, the effect will be the ſame as if the whole fluid were of the height C A.

T From theſe two caſes combined, the reaſon is evident, why fluids contained in the ſeveral parts of veſſels, (fig. 117.) remain every where at the ſame height. For the loweſt part where they communicate, may be regarded as the common baſe; and the fluids, which reſt thereon, are in equilibrio then only, when their heights are equal, however their quantities may vary.

U The hydroſtatical paradox, as by ſome it is called, depends on the equal preſſure of the parts of fluids every where at the ſame depth. It is this.

V Any quantity of fluid, however ſmall, may be made to counterpoiſe and ſuſtain any weight, how large ſoever.

W Let A D B G (fig. 118.) repreſent a cylindrical veſſel, to the inſide of which is fitted the cover C, which, by means of leather at the edge, will eaſily ſlide up and down in the internal cavity, without permitting any water to paſs between it and the ſurface of the cylinder. In the cover is inſerted the ſmall tube C F, open at top, and communicating with the inſide of the cylinder beneath the cover at C. The cylinder is filled with water, and the cover put on. Then, if the cover be loaded with the weight, ſuppoſe of a pound, it will be depreſſed, the water will riſe in the tube to E, and the weight will be ſuſtained. If another pound be added, the water will riſe through an equal ſpace to F, and the weight will be ſuſtained, and ſo forth, according to the weight added, and the length of the tube. Now, the weight of the water in the tube is but a few grains; yet its lateral preſſure ſerves to ſuſtain as much as the weight of a column of water, whoſe baſe is equal to that of the cylinder, and height equal to that in the tube. Thus, the column E C produces a preſſure in the water contained in the cylinder, equal to what would have been produced by the column A a d D; and, as this preſſure is exerted every way equally, the cover will be preſſed upwards with a force equal to the weight of A a d D: conſequently, if A a d D would weigh a pound, E C will ſuſtain a pound: and the like is true of other heights and weights. And by diminiſhing the diameter of the tube, any quantity of water, how ſmall ſoever, will, in theory, ſuſtain any weight, however large.

The ſame may be ſhewn more ſimply thus: x

Let A G B D (fig. 119.) repreſent a hollow cylinder, and M N a cylinder of wood, which nearly fills its cavity. In the cylinder, ſuppoſe a little water, whoſe ſurface is g b; then, if the wooden cylinder be put into the hollow one, the water will riſe between the ſurfaces to a and d, and the wood will be ſuſtained floating. The nearer the wooden cylinder approaches to the ſize of the cavity, the leſs water is neceſſary for the experiment.

CHAP. II.

CONCERNING BODIES IMMERSED IN FLUIDS, AND THE METHODS OF FINDING SPECIFIC GRAVITIES.

IF a ſolid body be plunged in a fluid, it will be preſſed on all ſides, but not equally. Let DBEC (fig. 120.) repreſent a ſolid priſmatic body, immerſed, with its axis vertical, in the fluid contained in the veſſel FGIH, then the ſides DC and BE will be equally preſſed; the upper ſurface DB will be preſſed with the weight of a column, whoſe baſe is DB, and height AD, and the under ſurface will be preſſed upwards with a force equal to the weight of a column whoſe height is AC (4, N). The body will therefore be impelled upwards by a force equal to the exceſs of AC above AD; that is, equivalent to the weight of a column of the fluid whoſe length is DC, the baſe being all along ſuppoſed to be unvaried. Whence it appears, that every priſm, whoſe axis is perpendicular to the horizon, will, if it be totally immerſed in any fluid, be impelled upwards by a force which is equal to the weight of a quantity of the fluid of the ſame bulk with the priſm. And ſince any ſolid whatſoever may be conceived to be formed of an indefinite number of ſuch priſms, it is evident that the rule is true of all bodies, without reſpect to figure.

But as all bodies, by the force of gravity, tend B downwards, it depends upon the abſolute weight of the immerſed body, whether it ſhall aſcend or deſcend. If the weight of the body exceed that of an equal bulk of the fluid, the exceſs of force tends downwards, and it will deſcend; but, on the contrary, if the weight of the body be leſs than that of an equal bulk of the fluid, the above-mentioned preſſure will prevail, and it will aſcend; if both be preciſely equal, the body will remain at reſt any where in the fluid.

Theſe things being conſidered, it appears that C any body, how heavy ſoever, may be made to ſwim, or any body, how light ſoever, to ſink, if means be uſed to keep off the preſſure of the fluid from the one or other ſide, as circumſtances require: for, if ADBK be ſuppoſed to repreſent an open D tube, inſtead of a column of the fluid, and the body DBCE be applied cloſely to its lower orifice, ſo that the fluid may not enter the tube, the preſſure on DB will be taken off, and conſequently the body will be preſſed upwards with a force equal to the whole column AC. If that column be of ſufficient length, that is, if the body be immerſed ſufficiently deep, the preſſure will exceed the gravity of the body, and therefore ſuſtain it. In the ſame manner, if M be a body applied to E the open end of a tube, which is cloſed at N, the inferior preſſure being taken off, the body will not riſe, however light, but remain immerſed, by means of the preſſure on the ſuperior ſurface.

When

F When a body floats at the ſurface of a fluid, the quantity of the fluid, diſplaced by the part immerſed, is equal in weight to the floating body. For ſince the body preſſes downwards with its whole weight, it muſt ſink till the preſſure, which the fluid exerts upwards, is equal to that weight. In this ſituation, ſuppoſe the fluid to be congealed, and the ſolid then removed: a cavity will be left in the fluid correſponding in form and magnitude with the immerſed part of the ſolid. Imagine this cavity be filled with a quantity of the ſame fluid, ſo that its ſurface may be level with the reſt, and the whole fluid then thawed. The fluid which occupies the place of the ſolid will then be preſſed upwards with a force equal to that ſuſtained before by the ſolid, namely, equal to the weight of the ſolid. But it is not moved by that force, for the ſurface muſt continue level (5, o), as before the thaw. The laſt mentioned quantity of fluid muſt therefore preſs downwards with an equal force. That is to ſay, the weight of a quantity of fluid equal in bulk to the immerſed part of a ſolid which floats on its ſurface, is equal to the whole weight of the ſolid.

G By the ſame argument, it follows, that if a floating body be loaded with weights, ſo as to cauſe it to ſink deeper in the fluid, the additional parts immerſed will in bulk be equal to, or diſplace, parts of the fluid, whoſe weights are equal to thoſe the floating body was loaded with.

Since bodies of equal bulks will loſe the ſame H quantity of abſolute weight when immerſed in fluids of equal denſity, it follows obviouſly, that the bulks of bodies are in proportion to the loſs of weight they ſuſtain by immerſion in a given fluid. Whence we have an exact method of determining the bulks of bodies whoſe weights are known, and from thence finding their ſpecific gravities. For,

As the bulk of one body, or the weight it loſes by immerſion,
Is to its maſs of matter, or abſolute weight,
So is the bulk of any other body, or the weight it loſes by immerſion,
To the maſs of matter, or abſolute weight, it would have had if of the ſame ſpecific gravity with the firſt body. Which weight laſt found being compared with the real weight of the latter body, ſhews the proportion of their ſpecific gravities.

For example; if 34 oz. of lead be weighed in I water, and the diminution be 3 oz. and 15 oz. of tin be alſo weighed in water, and the diminution appear 2 oz. it is required to determine the proportion of their ſpecific gravities. For which purpoſe,

As the diminution in the lead 3, is to its weight K 34, ſo is the diminution in the tin 2, to the weight of a maſs of lead of the ſame bulk $22\frac{2}{3}$ oz. which is to 15 as the ſpecific gravity of lead is to that of tin, that is to ſay, in lower terms, nearly as $11\frac{1}{3}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$.

But

L But it is more uſual and convenient to make rain-water the ſtandard, and refer the other ſubſtances to it: thus, in the inſtances juſt mentioned, the weight of a maſs of water equal in bulk to the lead is 3 oz. lead is therefore to water as 34 to 3, or as 11 $\frac{1}{3}$ to 1, and in like manner, tin is to water as 15 to 2, or as 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1.

M When the ſolid is lighter than the fluid in which it is weighed, an additional body of greater denſity may be joined to it: for inſtance, ſuppoſe a piece of cedar-wood, weighing 92 dwts. were required to be weighed; join to it, by means of a ſmall hair or thread, a piece of lead, whoſe weight in water is known, and weigh them immerſed together. The lead will then appear to weigh leſs by 58 dwts. than it did without the addition of the cedar; from whence it is evident, that the cedar is impelled upwards by a force that exceeds its own weight by that quantity, or, in other words, that a quantity of water, equal in bulk to the cedar, will weigh 92 + 58, or 150 dwts. conſequently the ſpecific gravities of water and cedar are in proportion as 150 to 92, or in lower terms, as 1 to $\frac{6}{10}$ nearly.

N In this experiment it is neceſſary firſt to ſmear the wood lightly with ſome fat ſubſtance, otherwiſe the water will be imbibed by the wood, and will render it ſpecifically heavier than before. In fact, wood is not ſpecifically lighter than water, but by means of the air-veſſels which run through its ſubſtance.

The beſt method to diſcover the ſpecific gravities of fluids is, to weigh the ſame ſubſtance in different fluids; and becauſe the diminution it ſuffers in weight is equal to the weight of a quantity of the fluid of the ſame bulk, we thence obtain the weights of equal quantities of different fluids, and the ſpecific gravities are as thoſe weights; thus, if a piece of glaſs weighed in the concentrated acid called oil of vitriol, loſe 85 grs. and when weighed in water only 40 grs. their ſpecific gravities will be as thoſe numbers, or in lower terms, as 21¼ to 10. O

The hydrometer, or inſtrument uſually applied to find the ſpecific gravities of liquids, is conſtructed as follows: A B (fig. 121.) is a tube of glaſs, joined to a hollow ball C, at the bottom of which is a ſmaller ball D. In the cavity D is placed a quantity of quickſilver, by which the inſtrument is ſo poiſed, that it ſwims in proof ſpirits of wine immerſed to the point M. A quantity of proof ſpirits equal in weight to the whole inſtrument, will therefore be equal in bulk to the immerſed part (10, F.) If it be immerſed in another liquid, whoſe ſpecific gravity is greater, it will ſwim with the tube higher out of the water, ſuppoſe to the point B. Then the weights of the quantities diſplaced remaining the ſame, their bulks will be as the immerſed parts of the hydrometer, and the ſpecific gravities of the fluids will be inverſely as thoſe bulks. The proportion which any length of the tube bears to the P the whole bulk of the inſtrument being known, it will not be difficult to graduate the tube ſo as to indicate the ſpecific gravities by inſpection. But this however is ſcarcely ever done.

Q This inſtrument is very confined in its uſe. For if the liquors differ conſiderably in ſpecific gravity, they exceed the limits of the graduation: thus the hydrometer, adapted for ſpirits, will ſwim in water with part of the ball above the ſurface; and if it be adapted to water, it will not ſwim in ſpirits at all. It is true, this may be remedied, either by lengthening or widening the tube: but the firſt is inconvenient, and the latter would make the graduations ſo ſhort, as to render them of little uſe.

R To make this inſtrument of more ſervice, there has been added a little plate or diſh D D (fig. 122.) at the top of the tube, upon which may be placed weights, as convenience requires. For example, if the whole inſtrument float immerged in ſpirits to the point M, it will require an additional weight to ſink it to the ſame depth in water. Suppoſe the inſtrument to weigh 10 dwts. and to be adjuſted to rectified ſpirits of wine, it will then require the addition $1\frac{6}{10}$ dwt. to ſink it to the ſame point in water. Conſequently it appears, that the ſpecific gravity of water is to that of ſpirits of wine as $11\frac{6}{10}$ to 10, or in lower terms, as 1 to $\frac{86}{100}$.

S This is the beſt hydrometer, both in reſpect to exactneſs and facility in practice. The inſtrument uſed by the officers of Exciſe, is very well adapted for its purpoſe, which is more confined: it differs from that here deſcribed, by having its additional weights ſcrewed on at a ſtem at E. Theſe inſtruments are uſually of copper.

An attempt has been made * to adapt the hydrometer to the general purpoſe of finding the ſpecific gravity, both of ſolids and fluids (fig. 123.) A is a hollow ball of copper; B is a diſh affixed to the ball by a ſhort ſlender ſtem D; C is another diſh affixed to the oppoſite ſide of the ball by a kind of ſtirrup. In the inſtrument actually made, the ſtem D is of hardened ſteel, $\frac{1}{40}$ of an inch in diameter, and the diſh C is ſo heavy as in all caſes to keep the ſtem vertical, when the inſtrument is made to float in any liquid. The parts are ſo adjuſted that the addition of 1000 grains, in the upper diſh B, will juſt ſiſh it in diſtilled water, at the temperature of 60° of Fahrenheit's thermometer, ſo that the ſurface ſhall interſect the middle of the ſtem D. Let it now be required to find the ſpecific gravity of any fluid. Immerſe the inſtrument therein, and by placing weights in the diſh B cauſe it to float, ſo that the middle of its ſtem D ſhall be cut by the ſurface of the fluid. Then, as the known weight of the inſtrument added to 1000 grains; is to the ſame known weight added to the weights uſed in producing the laſt equilibrium: ſo is the weight of a quantity of diſtilled water diſplaced by the floating inſtrument; to the weight of an equal bulk of the fluid under

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* By the Author of this work.

conſideration. And theſe weights give the ratio of the ſpecific gravities (4, M). Again, let it be required to find the ſpecific gravity of a ſolid body leſs than 1000 grains. Place the inſtrument in diſtilled water, and put the body in the diſh B. Make the adjuſtment of ſinking the inſtrument to the middle of the ſtem, by adding weights in the ſame diſh. Take thoſe weights from 1000 grains, and the remainder will be the weight of the body. Place now the body in the lower diſh C, and add more weight in the upper diſh B, till the adjuſtment is again obtained. The weight laſt added will be the loſs the ſolid ſuſtains (8, Z, A) by immerſion, and is the weight of an equal bulk of water. Conſequently the ſpecific gravity of the ſolid compared with water, is as its weight to the loſs it ſuſtains by immerſion.

U This inſtrument was found to be ſufficiently accurate to give weights true to leſs than one twentieth of a grain.

V Experiments concerning ſpecific gravities are more difficult to be made with accuracy than authors in general ſeem to imagine. For we often ſee tables of ſpecific gravities carried to four, five, and even ſix places of figures; whereas a difference of a few degrees in the temperature of the water will change the fourth figure. In different ſpecimens of the ſame wood, the ſpecific gravities will vary in the third figure, as will alſo metals caſt out of the ſame melting, but cooled more quickly or ſlowly; and theſe alſo are alterable by hammering.

ing*. Natural and artificial compounds have likewiſe great varieties of denſity in the ſeveral ſpecimens denoted by the ſame name.

A Table of Specific Gravities, extracted from various Authors.

Names.	Authors.	Sp. Gravity.
Platina	Kirwan	23.000
Gold	Muſchenbroek	19.238 to 19.640
Gold ſtandard of George II.	Muſchenbroek	17.150
Silver	Kirwan, Muſchen.	11.091
Copper	Kirwan	8.7 to 9.300
Steel ſoft	Muſchenb.	7.738 to 7.8955
Steel elaſtic	Muſchenbroek	7.809
Iron bar	Muſchenbroek	7.60 to 7.875
Lead	Muſchenbroek	11.226 to 11.479
Tin	Muſchenbroek	7.000 to 7.450
Mercury	Muſchenbroek	13.55 to 14.110
Zink	Kirwan	6.9 to 7.24
Regulus of antimony	Kirwan	6.860
Regulus of arſenic	Kirwan	8.310
Biſmuth	Kirwan	9.6 to 9.7
Cobalt, the regulus	Kirwan	7.7
Nickel	Kirwan	7.421 to 9.000
Regulus of mangancſe	Kirwan	6.850
Wolfram, the regulus	† De Luyart	17.6
Common brimſtone	Muſchenbroek	1.8
Fine glaſs	Muſchenbroek	3.150 to 3.380
Plate glaſs	Muſchenbroek	2.888
Plate glaſs	B. Martin	2.76
Green glaſs for retorts, &c.	Muſchenbroek	2.620

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* Experiments frequently repeated by the Author have ſhewn the ſpecific gravity of two nearly equal ſmooth cylinders of lead, caſt out of the ſame fuſion were ſpecifically in weight to each other as 1138 to 1125.

† A chemical analyſis of wolfram. London, 1785.

Names.	Authors.	Sp. Gravity.
Crown glaſs	B. Martin	2.52
White flint	B. Martin	3·29
White flint		3·216
Denſe glaſs for achromatic uſes		3·437
The concave of an achromatic lens		3·436
Calcareous ſpar (calx aerata) from the ſame piece		2.711 to 2.726
Ponderous ſpar or barytes vitriolata		4·474
Quartz	Muſchenbroek	2.763
Rock cryſtal	Muſchenbroek	2.650
Diamond	Muſchenbroek	3.466 to 3.654
Rain-water		1.000
Diſtilled water	Muſchenbroek	0.993
River water	Muſchenbroek	1.009
Sea water	Muſchenbroek	1.030
Saturate ſolution of ſea-ſalt	Muſchenbroek	1.244
Concentrated vitriolic acid	Bergman	2.125
Concentrated nitrous acid	Bergman	1.580
Concentrated muriatic acid	Bergman	1.150
Concentrated fluor acid	Bergman	1.500
Oil of amber	Muſchenbroek	0.978
Oil of ſweet almonds	Muſchenbroek	0.928
Oil of olives	Muſchenbroek	0.913
Naptha	Muſchenbroek	0.708
Rectified ſpirit of wine	Muſchenbroek	0.866
Alcohol	Muſchenbroek	0.815
Ether	Muſchenbroek	0.732
Air at the earth's ſurface	Muſchenb.	$0.001\frac{2}{3}$ to $0.001\frac{1}{4}$
Air. Barometer at 30 In. Thermometer 32°	Atwood	0.001279

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

OF THE MOTION OF FLUIDS WHICH ARISES FROM THE PRESSURE OF THEIR SUPERINCUMBENT PARTS.

THE preſſure of fluids being ſhewn to be in proportion to their depths (3, H) it will not be difficult to find the celerities with which they ſpout forth from ſmall apertures in the ſides or bottoms of veſſels.

For this purpoſe let us ſuppoſe PQSR (fig. 120.) to be a priſmical column of any fluid that paſſes through a hole in the bottom of the veſſel FHIG. If the height PQ be aſſumed indefinitely ſmall, the preſſure by which the velocity is produced may be eſteemed conſtant, becauſe the column OPRV, whoſe weight (5, Q) is the meaſure of that preſſure, does not acquire any definite increaſe during the paſſage of the column through its height PQ. The weight of the column OPRV exceeds the weight of the column PQSR in the ſame proportion as the height PO exceeds the height PQ, and conſequently the action or preſſure exerted on the column PQSR exceeds its mere gravity in the ſame proportion. Therefore, whatever may be the final velocity, or velocity of emiſſion, produced in the column PQSR in paſſing through PQ, it will be required, in order to produce an equal final velocity by the mere action of gravity, that the ſame

column ſhould deſcend through a ſpace proportionably greater as this laſt is leſs than the former force (I. 36, H), namely through a ſpace equal to
Y PO. That is to ſay, the velocity of any fluid iſſuing from a hole in the bottom of a veſſel is equal to that which would be acquired by a body falling freely by its gravity through a ſpace equal to the perpendicular height of the fluid above the hole.

Z And becauſe fluids preſs equally every way at equal depths (4, N), this theorem holds good likewiſe with reſpect to fluids that ſpout through apertures at the ſides of veſſels, or with any obliquity whatſoever.

A Hence the motions of ſpouting fluids may be reduced to rule. For every part of the projected ſtream being conſidered as a body in motion, thrown with a given velocity and direction, the ſame principles will be equally applicable to ſpouting
B fluids and to projectiles of any other kind. Thus if the fluid ſpout directly downwards, its velocity in any point of its courſe will be equal to the velocity of emiſſion added to that which it would have acquired by gravity in its fall from the aperture; or, (20, Y) which is the ſame thing, its velocity will be the ſame as if it had fallen from the ſurface of the fluid. If it ſpout directly upwards, it will (I. 31, P. II. 20, Y) proceed with an uniformly retarded motion, which will carry it to the level of the ſurface of the fluid in the veſſel. If it ſpouts in any other direction, its courſe will be nearly a parabola (I. 97, U).

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C On theſe conſiderations depends the performance of fountains; for the conſtruction of which there is provided a reſervoir, elevated conſiderably above the plane in which the fountain is to be made. A pipe, communicating with the reſervoir, is conveyed to the middle of a baſon, and by means of a perpendicular ſpout, called the adjutage, throws the water up in the air to a height which is in the level of the ſurface of the water in the reſervoir.

D But in applying theſe obſervations to practice, there are many circumſtances that tend to diminiſh the quantities of motion. There are few fluids that have not a conſiderable degree of coheſion or tenacity, which prevents their parts from moving as freely as otherwiſe they would have done; and the friction againſt the ſides of tubes very much retards the motion of the included fluids, if the tubes be long, ſmall or crooked, and the velocity great. The air which, extricating itſelf from the water, occupies the upper parts of bent pipes is often a great obſtacle to the courſe of the water, and not unfrequently ſtops its progreſs entirely. In fountains, eſpecially where the fluid is thrown perpendicularly upwards, the part that is falling reſts upon the aſcending column, and prevents its arriving at the height its motion would have carried it to; beſides which, the reſiſtance of the air, and other cauſes, join in increaſing the ſame effect. We muſt not therefore expect in theſe more than in other engines, that the performance will equal the theory; yet, it is not difficult to make the proper allowances, ſo as to find their real effects by calculation; but our purpoſe, being general, does not extend to the variety of particulars which offer themſelves.

CHAP. IV.

OF THE RESISTANCE WHICH FLUIDS MAKE TO BODIES MOVING IN THEM.

E WHEN a body is immerſed in a maſs or quantity of fluid matter, and is in motion, it muſt ſeparate the parts of the fluid from each other as it moves. If the parts of the fluid be without coheſion or tenacity, this ſeparation will be attended with no difficulty; but if the tenacity be conſiderable, it will require a conſiderable force to overcome it. A part of the motion muſt therefore be loſt in producing this effect. And, in the ſame fluid, the more parts are divided in a given time, the greater quantity of the motion muſt be loſt or employed for that purpoſe. But a body, moving through an uniform fluid, divides a greater or leſs number of its parts, in proportion as the velocity of its motion is greater or leſs.
F Conſequently, the reſiſtance which an uniform fluid makes, by reaſon of its tenacity, to a body immerſed and moving in it, is in proportion to the velocity of the moving body.

But there is another reſiſtance of greater conſequence, which fluids make to bodies immerſed and moving in them, and ariſes from the inertia of their parts. For if a body be moved in a fluid, it muſt give motion to a certain quantity of that fluid, and the reaction of that quantity will deſtroy part of the motion of the body. Now a body moving through an uniform fluid, gives motion to a greater or leſs number of its parts, in proportion to the velocity of its motion, and is therefore reſiſted in the ſimple proportion of the velocity on that account. Again, a body moving through an uniform fluid, communicates a greater or leſs quantity of motion to each of its parts, in proportion to the velocity of its motion, and is therefore reſiſted in the ſimple proportion of the velocity on that account. On both accounts, then, the reſiſtance which ariſes from the inertia of the fluid, is in the duplicate proportion of the velocity of the moving body.

When the ſame body is ſpoken of, the reſiſtance and retardation follow the ſame ratio; but, in different bodies, they differ in the ſame manner as motion and velocity. Reſiſtance ſignifies the quantity of motion, and retardation the quantity of velocity which is deſtroyed: for example, if a body be projected with a given velocity in a fluid, and loſe half its motion by the reſiſtance in a given time, its retardation will be half its velocity: but if another body of the ſame bulk, but twice the weight or maſs of matter, be projected with a like velocity in the ſame fluid, it will be equally reſiſted; but, having twice the quantity of motion, will only loſe one-fourth of its velocity in the ſame time. Thus, though the reſiſtances be equal, the retardation in the latter inſtance is only half the quantity of that in the former.

K. In fluids that are not glutinous, the reſiſtance ariſing from their tenacity is inconſiderable, eſpecially in ſwift motion: in which caſe, the reſiſtance from the inertia increaſing as the ſquares of the velocities, while that from the tenacity increaſes only as the velocities themſelves, the proportion of the latter to the former, becomes ſo ſmall that it may be neglected. It is uſual, therefore, to neglect that reſiſtance which ariſes from the tenacity of fluids.

L. In like circumſtances, the reſiſtances of fluids are as their denſities. For the quantity of matter to be moved is in that proportion.

M. If a cylinder be moved through an uniform fluid in the direction of its axis, it will ſuffer a reſiſtance equal to that of a ſphere, whoſe diameter and velocity of motion in the ſame fluid are equal to thoſe of the cylinder. For proof of which, ſuppoſe the cylinder to be quieſcent in the middle of a priſmical canal or tube, its axis coinciding with that of the tube. Let this tube be filled with the fluid, and conceive the fluid to be moved through it with a given velocity. Then the fluid will paſs between the ſides of the tube and the cylinder, and its motion will be impeded by its being reduced to paſs through a narrower ſpace. If the ſphere be ſubſtituted in the place of the cylinder, the ſpace through which the fluid is reduced to paſs will be preciſely the ſame, and conſequently its motion will be equally impeded. And, becauſe action and reaction are equal, the cylinder and ſphere in theſe circumſtances will be equally acted upon by the fluid. Now, let the fluid be ſuppoſed quieſcent, and the cylinder or ſphere moved with the ſame velocity, and in the contrary direction to that in which the fluid was before moved; and the relative motions of the fluid and immerſed body will be the ſame as before. Conſequently, the cylinder and ſphere, if moved with equal velocities through a priſmical veſſel containing a fluid, will be equally acted upon in the contrary direction to their motions; that is, they will be equally reſiſted. And, ſince this equality of reſiſtance does not at all depend on the magnitude of the priſmical veſſel, the doctrine may be applied to bodies moving in an indefinitely extended fluid, or fluid contained in an indefinitely large priſmical veſſel. It may, therefore, be applied to all bodies in motion which are deeply immerſed in any fluid.

Hence it appears, that in order to maintain the uniform motion of a body in a fluid, a conſtant acceſſion of force is required to overcome the reſiſtance; but as, in general, there is no ſuch acceſſion in the motions which are performed about us, they all decay by degrees, and at length terminate.

O It likewiſe appears, that when a body moves in any fluid, and is acted upon by any conſtant force, it can obtain but a certain degree of velocity. For, as the reſiſtance increaſes with the velocity, but in a higher proportion, namely, at the ſquares, (23, H) it is plain that the reſiſtance at a certain period of the acceleration will become equal to the conſtantly acting force; after which the body will proceed uniformly, and the conſtantly acting force will be employed in overcoming the reſiſtance. On this account it is, that bodies that ſink in water, or other fluids, by the force of gravity, ſoon acquire their utmoſt velocity, and afterwards proceed uniformly. And, in like manner, a ſhip, when it firſt gets under way, proceeds with an accelerated velocity, till the reſiſtance of the water becomes in equilibrio with the action of the wind on its ſails, but afterwards proceeds uniformly, the force of the wind being entirely employed in overcoming that reſiſtance.

P In mathematical ſtrictneſs it is not true, that a body in theſe circumſtances ever arrives at uniformity of motion; for the approach of the reſiſtance to an equality with the impelling force is repreſented by a converging ſeries, the number of whoſe terms is infinite, and their ſum in any finite time is leſs than the impelling force: but the latter terms ſoon become too ſmall to be of any phyſical conſequence.

Q What is here ſaid of reſiſtance is to be underſtood of bodies deeply immerſed in fluids, the parts of which are compreſſed together, and non-elaſtic or incapable of condenſation. Friction is likewiſe neglected. Bodies moving at or near the ſurfaces of fluids, more eſpecially if they be obtuſe, cauſe the fluid to riſe into a heap before the body, at the ſame time that it ſubſides at the hinder part. And ſo likewiſe, obtuſe bodies, moving in elaſtic fluids, condenſe that part of the fluid towards which they are moving, while the part from which they recede is rarefied. In theſe caſes the reſiſtances are greater than would be deduced by the principles here treated of*.

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* Principia. II. § 8,

BOOK II.

SECT. IV.

Of the air or atmoſphere.

CHAP. I.

OF THE GENERAL PROPERTIES OF THE AIR, THE DIMENSIONS OF THE ATMOSPHERE, AND THE MEASUREMENT OF THE HEIGHTS OF MOUNTAINS BY MEANS OF THE BAROMETER.

R CONTINUAL experience ſhews, that we are immerſed in a fluid which agitates bodies when it is in motion; reſiſts the motions made in it; ſuſtains bodies floating in it; and, in ſhort, differs very little in its general properties from the groſſer fluids, great rarity, elaſticity, and tranſparency, being its diſtinguiſhing characters.

S The whole maſs of this fluid, with its contents, is called the atmoſphere; a term made uſe of when the effects that ariſe from its form, magnitude, denſity, &c. are conſidered; but when the fluid of which the maſs is compoſed is indefinitely ſpoken of, with a view to develope its qualities, and conſider it independant of the bodies immerſed in, or mixed with it, it is called the air, or air.

Air is a fluid, whoſe particles are not in contact, and repel each other with a force that may be diminiſhed, but cannot be deſtroyed by any degree of cold known in the vicinity of the earth. For, if the particles were in contact the fluid could not be compreſſed, and if they did not repel each other, the fluid could not expand when the compreſſing force is removed. This property of the air may be ſhewn by various methods: one of the ſimpleſt is, to pour a quantity of quickſilver in the tube A B C, (fig. 124.) cloſed at A, and open at C. Suppoſe the tube to be filled with quickſilver to E, then the air incloſed in the leg A B will prevent its riſing higher than D. Mark F in the ſame horizontal line with D, and (6, T) the column D B will be in equilibrio with F B; conſequently the quickſilver contained between F and D will not at all preſs on the air between A and D. But the column E F acting with its whole weight on the quickſilver between F and D cauſes it to preſs on the air at D, and condenſe it. By increaſing the quantity of quickſilver the condenſation is increaſed, and it is found, that the ſpaces into which the air is condenſed by different weights are inverſely as thoſe weights; or its denſity is as the preſſure it bears.

One of the firſt objects of enquiry that offer themſelves reſpecting the atmoſphere is its extent or magnitude. Experience aſſures us, that it is extended over the whole ſurface of the earth and ſea; and it is evident, from the ſuſpenſion and motion of the clouds, that its altitude is conſiderable; but the meaſure of this altitude muſt be obtained from its effects. Thus, if the ſpecific gravity of the air be found, and alſo its whole preſſure on bodies, it will be eaſy to diſcover the quantity of the fluid, and its height, if ſuppoſed to be uniformly denſe. Another method of diſcovering the height of the atmoſphere is deduced from optical conſiderations, by obſerving the effect it has on the light of the Sun.

x To find the ſpecific gravity of the air, let A B (fig. 125.) repreſent a bottle, whoſe contents are exactly known; for example, ſuppoſe it capable of holding two pounds of rain-water; let a valve, opening outwards, be fitted at A, and the air be exhauſted from within by means of the air-pump, hereafter to be deſcribed; let the veſſel thus exhauſted be weighed in water, or any other denſe fluid, in the veſſel M N, as repreſented in the figure, after which let the air be admitted. An additional weight of about 14½ grains will be required to reſtore the equilibrium: therefore, the air contained in the veſſel A B weighs 14½ grains, the proportion of which to two pounds is 1 to 800, or 1¼ to 1000.

y In this experiment the veſſel B is immerſed in water, that the fulcrum of the ſcales being leſs loaded, may urn with leſs friction, and conſequently be more ſenſible. It is attended, however, with ſome difficulties; the chief of which conſiſts in the attraction or repulſion exerted at the ſurface of the water, and this is conſiderable enough to induce ſome philoſophers to weigh the bottle without immerſing it.

The ſpecific gravity of air being thus diſcovered, its preſſure may be found by the Torricellian experiment, ſo called from its inventor Torricellius. Let A B (fig. 126.) repreſent a glaſs tube of the length of 35 inches or upwards, cloſed at the end A, and open at B; fill the ſame with quickſilver, and cloſe the orifice at B with the finger, or otherwiſe: immerſe the end B in the veſſel of quickſilver C D, and remove the finger from the orifice; the quickſilver will then ſubſide to N in the tube at the height of about 30 inches.

This phenomenon is readily explained on the common principles of hydroſtatics: for which purpoſe it muſt be remembered, that the preſſure, a body, immerſed in the veſſel C D, would ſuſtain, is not only that which ariſes from the weight of the quickſilver, but likewiſe from that of a column of the atmoſphere, incumbent on its ſurface; ſo that every column of the quickſilver preſſes with a force that exceeds its own weight. When the tube is inverted into the veſſel of quickſilver, the ſurface of the column it contains being defended from the preſſure of the atmoſphere, by the cloſure at A, can preſs downwards with no more than its own weight; and will, therefore, be in equilibrio with the preſſure

the quickſilver in the veſſel exerts againſt its deſcent, then only, when it is ſo much longer, that the additional quickſilver may be equal to the additional weight which a ſimilar column in the veſſel receives from the preſſure of the atmoſphere;
B that is to ſay, the preſſure of the atmoſphere on any given ſurface is equal to the weight of a column of mercury, whoſe baſe is the given ſurface, and height equal to that at which it ſtands in the Torricellian tube; and this preſſure is the weight of a column of air, whoſe baſe is the given ſurface, and height equal to that of the atmoſphere. Or, generally, becauſe the baſes may be ſuppoſed not to vary, the preſſure of the atmoſphere, is as the height of the mercury in the tube.

An inſtrument conſiſting of a Torricellian tube, with a ſcale adapted for meaſuring the heights of the mercury, is called a Barometer.

C It has been ſhewn, that when the air is condenſed, its denſity is in proportion to the weight that compreſſes it (29, U.) By means of the Torricellian tube it may be obſerved, that the ſame proportion obtains when it is rarefied by taking off part of the weight of the ſuperincumbent atmoſphere. For, in any elaſtic fluid at reſt, the ſpring muſt equal the compreſſing force (I. 22, R); and if any part of that force be taken away, it muſt expand till the ſpring becomes equal to the remainder; which will happen if the elaſticity of the fluid be weakened by expanſion. And ſince the preſſures of fluids are as their heights (3, H) the preſſure of the mercury in the tube a b (fig. 126.) will be equal to that in the tube A B, when the mercury reſts at n in the ſame horizontal line with N. Now, if a bubble or ſmall quantity of air be admitted into the tube A B, it will depreſs the mercury below the mark N, till its ſpring, and the weight of the mercury remaining in the tube be in equilibrio with the preſſure of the atmoſphere; that is, if the mercury be depreſſed to M, that part of the weight of the atmoſphere which correſponds with the quantity of mercury M B, will be ſuſtained by the weight of the mercury, and the remainder M N will be ſuſtained by the ſpring of the included air. The included air then, being preſſed by a weight leſs than that of the whole atmoſphere, becomes rarefied or expanded. By variouſly inclining the tube, or by immerſing its lower end to greater depths in the baſon, the included air may be made to bear more or leſs of the weight of the atmoſphere, as may be gathered by meaſuring the perpendicular altitude of M above the ſurface of the quickſilver contained in the veſſel C D, and ſubtracting it from the altitude B N, which correſponds with the weight of the whole atmoſphere, and its contraction or dilatation obſerved: whence it appears, that the denſity of air, though greatly rarefied, is proportional to the compreſſing force.

If two columns of uniform fluids, whoſe ſpecific gravities differ, be equal in weight, and ſtand on equal baſes, their heights will be reciprocally as their ſpecific gravities (4, L, M. 6, T.) The ſpecific D gravities of quickſilver and air are reſpectively 14019 and 1$\frac{1}{4}$: therefore,

As the ſpecific gravity of air, - - - -	1$\frac{1}{4}$
Is to the ſpecific of mercury, - - - - -	14019
So is the height of the column of mercury, -	30 inches,
To the height of an equal column of air - -	336456, or 5$\frac{1}{4}$ Engliſh miles.

This would be the height of the atmoſphere, if it were uniformly of the ſame denſity; but as that is not the caſe, on account of the elaſticity which cauſes the upper parts to expand in proportion as the weight of the ſuperincumbent parts becomes leſs, the altitude muſt be much greater.

The denſity of the air in that part of the atmoſphere in which we live being ſhewn to be as the weight that compreſſes it, it is plain, if the conſtitution of the air in the ſuperior regions be of the ſame kind, that its denſity at any altitude will be as the weight or quantity of the ſuperincumbent air. Suppoſe A m (fig. 127.) to be a column of the atmoſphere, and imagine the ſame to be continued at pleaſure beyond m, ſo as to reach its utmoſt limits. Let this column be divided into an indefinitely great number of equal parts, A b, b c, c d, &c. and the quantity of air contained in any one of thoſe parts, or its denſity, will be in proportion to the quantity of air which is ſuperincumbent on that part. Now, the difference between the quantities of air incumbent on any two contiguous parts is the quantity contained in the uppermoſt of thoſe parts; that is, for example, the quantity ſuperincumbent on d is leſs than that which is incumbent on c by the difference or part cd: therefore the quantities contained in the equal parts or diviſions are the differences between the incumbent maſſes of air taken in a regular ſucceſſion; and theſe quantities or differences have been ſhewn to be in proportion to the incumbent maſſes. [*] Now, it is demonſtrable, that if any ſucceſſion or ſeries of magnitudes do increaſe or decreaſe in ſuch a manner, that the differences ſhall be in proportion to the magnitudes themſelves, then thoſe magnitudes, and conſequently their differences, ſhall be in a G continued geometrical progreſſion: whence it follows, that the denſities or quantities of air contained in the equal diviſions or parts Ab, bc, cd, &c. muſt decreaſe in a continued geometrical progreſſion.

H On theſe conſiderations is founded the barometrical method of meaſuring the elevations of mountains, or other eminences. The principles made uſe of may be explained as follows:

I If a barometer were carried upwards with an uniform motion through the column of air Am,

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[*] Let a, b, c, d, &c. be magnitudes, whoſe differences are as the magnitudes themſelves.

That is $a-b : b :: b-c : c :: c-d : d$, &c.
Then $ac=bb$, $bd=cc$, &c.
And $a : b : c : d$, &c.

(fig. 127.) its elevation above the ſurface of the Earth would increaſe by the continual addition of the equal ſpaces Ab, bc, cd, &c. ſo as to be ſucceſſively repreſented by the natural ſeries of the numbers 1, 2, 3, &c. but the mercury in the tube would continually deſcend ſo as to paſs through heights that would be proportional to the preſſures or denſities of the air (52, B, C.) at A, b, c, d, &c.
K that is to ſay, while the elevations above the ſurface of the earth increaſe arithmetically, the heights of the mercury in the tube will decreaſe in a continual geometrical ſeries (35, G.)

L Now, it is well known, that if a continued geometrical ſeries, beginning with unity, be ranged in order, with an arithmetical ſeries, beginning with 0, or a cypher, the numbers of the latter ſeries will be the logarithms of the correſpondent numbers of the other. Such are the numbers before us; for the greateſt denſity of the air, or greateſt height of the mercury, may be called unity, and anſwers to an elevation of 0, or nothing above
M the Earth's ſurface. The elevations above the Earth's ſurface will therefore be the logarithms of the heights of the mercury in the barometer.

N If therefore we were provided with a table of logarithms, or an arithmetical ſeries of known unities or meaſures, adapted to that geometrical ſeries which expreſſes the gradual deſcent of the mercury, while it is carried with an uniform motion upwards, the differences of the logarithms of any two given heights of the mercury would in fact be the difference of the elevations above the Earth's ſurface, or it would be the perpendicular ſpace through which the barometer had been carried, in order to produce that deſcent of the mercury.

But as there is no ſuch table in being, it would become neceſſary to compute directly from the properties of the geometrical ſeries, if there were not a method of applying the common tables of logarithms to this purpoſe. It is a property of all logarithms, that if the difference between the logarithms of two numbers be taken in one ſet of logarithms, and the difference between the logarithms of the ſame two numbers be taken in logarithms of another form, the proportion between theſe two differences will be conſtant for all pairs of numbers ſo taken*. From hence if the difference of two elevations be experimentally found, and the reſpective heights of the mercury obſerved at each, it will not be difficult to deduce any other difference of elevation from obſervations of the heights of the mercury at each.

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* In the following ſeries,

0.	3.	6.	9.	12.	15.	logar.
0.	2.	4.	6.	8.	10.	logar.
1.	n.	n^2	n^3	n^4	n^5	numbers.

it is obvious, that the logarithm of any number in one ſeries has a conſtant ratio to the logarithm of the ſame number in the other ſeries. And the differences between the logarithms of two given numbers in the two ſeries of logarithms will have the ſame conſtant ratio, as being the logarithms of one and the ſame number, namely, the quotient of thoſe two numbers.

P An example will render this clear. Suppoſe the height of the mercury in a barometer be 29.565 inche, and the height of the mercury in another barometer, placed at an elevation of 710 feet above the former be 28.770 inches, it is required to find the difference of elevation of two barometers, whoſe mercurial columns ſtand reſpectively at 28.9 inches, and 27.5 inches.

Q If the altitude of the mercurial column, 30 inches, be taken as unity, or the firſt term of the geometrical ſeries, the two firſt altitudes will become fractions $\frac{29.565}{30}$, and $\frac{28.770}{30}$ of that unity, the number 710 being the difference of the logarithms, or correſpondent terms of the arithmetical ſeries of elevation, taken in feet. Take now the difference of the common logarithms of thoſe fractions, or, which is the ſame, the difference of the logarithms of their numerators thus:

29.565 its logarithm, - - 1.4707779
28.770 its logarithm, - - 1.4589399
Difference, .0118380

R And this difference .0118380 will bear the ſame proportion to the difference of elevation 710, as the difference of the common logarithms of any other two altitudes of the mercury will be to the difference of elevation between them (37, o :) ſo that with reſpect to the thing required,

From the logarithm of 28.9 - 1.4608978
Take the logarithm of 27.5 - 1.4393327
The difference is .0215651

And as .0118380 : 710 :: .0215651 : 1294 feet.

As the two firſt terms are of conſtant uſe in s
theſe computations, it will be advantageous to reduce them to the ſimpleſt expreſſion: thus, as .0118380 : 710 : : 1 : 60000 nearly; ſo that, inſtead of working the proportion with the two firſt terms, it will be ſufficient to multiply the difference of the logarithms by 60000, and the product will give the elevation in feet of one barometer above the other.

But to multiply this difference by 60000 is the T
ſame as to multiply it by 10000, and by 6. The multiplication by 10000 is effected by moving the decimal point four places farther to the right: whence it is ſeen, that the decimal point being removed four places to the right, converts the difference of the logarithms into a number that requires to be multiplied by 6 to reduce it into feet. The number itſelf is therefore the height in U
fathoms and decimal parts:

Conſequently, the ſhorteſt general rule for V
meaſuring heights by the barometer is, take the difference of the logarithms of the heights of the mercury at both ſtations, and the four firſt figures following the decimal point will be the fathoms, and the reſt a fraction of a fathom, expreſſing the elevation.

It is evident, however, that this rule ſuppoſes W
the ſpecific gravity of the mercury to remain unaltered, becauſe its height could not otherwiſe be a ſettled meaſure of the denſities of the air that ſuſtains it. It is likewiſe implied, that the denſity of

the air is ſubject to no other change than may ariſe from its diminiſhed compreſſion in aſcending towards the upper regions of the air: but neither of theſe poſitions can be admitted in the actual practice. For all bodies expand and occupy larger ſpaces when their temperature is increaſed. The mercury in the barometer, when heated, will be ſpecifically lighter, and will conſequently aſcend from that cauſe, even though the preſſure of the air ſhould remain unchanged: and the air, when expanded by the ſame agent, will not diminiſh its preſſure after the uſual ratio in aſcending; or, if the ſame geometrical ſeries be ſuppoſed to be retained, the unity of its logarithms will be greater than before, and the general rule, (39, v) inſtead of giving fathoms, will give a number of ſome larger meaſure. Thus we ſee, that the rule can be true only with reſpect to air of a given temperature, and that in all other caſes it will require to be corrected.

Y By a very valuable ſet of experiments it is found, that the mercury in a barometer changes its altitude by heat, according to the following table:

Z If the mercury in the barometer ſtand at 30 inches when the temperature is 32°; its changes will be, for every degree,

between 0 and 32°	between 32° and 52′	between 62 and 72	between 72 and 92
falls 0.0034 inch.	riſ. 0.0033	riſ. 0.0032	riſ. 0.0031

A In order therefore that we may know the effect of the air's preſſure on the barometer, it is required, that its height ſhould be corrected by the addition or ſubtraction of theſe quantities, according to the number of degrees of temperature above or below 32°, and in proportion to its height.

It is alſo pretty well eſtabliſhed from barometical obſervations, and from experiments made with air of various denſities, that its expanſions by heat are as in the following table. The height of the mercury is taken to be the mean between the heights at the extremities of the column of air, and the column entitled correction ſhews the expanſion or diminution of the column of air in thouſandth parts of the elevation given by the general rule (39, VI) B

Mean height of BAROMETER 30 inches. C

Mean Temperature of the air,		Correction.	Difference for 1 inch barom.
92°	Add to logarithmic elevation.	156.381	6.0925
82		131.188	5.111
72		105.047	4.0925
62		78.427	3.0555
52		51.335	2.0000
42		25.193	0.9816
32	Subtract.	0.	0.
22		24.242	0.4722
12		47.532	0.9259

D The philoſopher who undertakes to meaſure heights barometically ſhould be provided with two portable barometers, of the beſt conſtruction, on which he may read off the height of the mercurial columns to the 500th part of an inch; each barometer muſt be fitted up with an attached thermometer, ſet in the wooden frame in the ſame manner as the barometer-tube is. It is convenient that the ball of each thermometer be nearly of the ſame diameter as the barometer-tube: he ſhould alſo be provided with two other thermometers, detached from the barometers. One barometer with its attached and detached thermometers is to be placed in the ſhade, on the eminence, whoſe height is required, while the other remains in the plain below. Theſe muſt be ſuffered to continue in their places at leaſt a ſufficient time for the detached thermometer to acquire the temperature of the air, that is to ſay, till it ceaſes either to riſe or fall. The obſerver on the eminence muſt then make an obſervation of the height of the mercurial column, and alſo of the temperatures exhibited by the attached and detached thermometers at the ſame time that the obſerver in the plain performs the like with the inſtruments below. It will tend much to diminiſh the errors, if three or more ſets of obſervations be taken at each ſtation after ſhort intervals of time, and the mean of the whole be made uſe of as the true obſervation.

E The nearer theſe directions are adhered to the more accurate will be the reſult; but they will admit of conſiderable deviations in the practice. In caſes where better inſtruments cannot be had, any well made portable barometer, graduated ſo as to ſhew the true fall of the mercury, may afford obſervations by no means to be deſpiſed. For a ſmall error in the poſition of the zero, or lower point, from which the ſcale of inches begins, provided the point be fixed, will not ſenſibly affect the reſult; and the attached thermometer may be diſpenſed with, if an hour or more be allowed for the mercury in the barometer to acquire the temperature of the ſurrounding air, which is ſhewn by the detached thermometer. A ſingle barometer may ſupply the place of two, if the obſervations can, within any moderate ſpace of time, be made firſt in the plain, then on the mountain, and again repeated on the plain: becauſe it may reaſonably be preſumed, that if the two ſets of obſervations on the plain agree together, the common denſity of the air below has not changed during the operation. The obſervations being made, the height may be deduced according to the following ſummary of the contents of the preceding pages:

First. Reduce the height of the mercury in each barometer to the height it would have ſtood at in the temperature of 32°. This is done by adding to the height, or ſubtracting from it the quantity indicated in the table (40, Z, A) for that purpoſe, according to the number of degrees the attached thermometer ſtands below or above 32°, and the obſerved height in the tube. F

Secondly. Take the difference of the logarithms of the reduced heights of the mercury in each barometer; of this difference, the four firſt figures on the left will be the logarithmic elevation in fathoms, the remaining figures being a decimal. This will G be the true elevation, if the mean between the temperatures indicated by the detached thermometer be 32°.

Thirdly. But if the mean temperature of the column of air, as indicated by the detached thermometers, be above or below 32°; find the mean between the two altitudes of the mercury; extract from the table (41, c) the two numbers in the column of differences that range oppoſite the two temperatures, between which the mean temperature of the column of air lies; multiply each by the number of inches (and parts, if the elevation be great) which the mean altitude of the mercury differs from 30 inches. Subtract theſe products from the reſpective oppoſite numbers in the column of corrections, if the mean altitude of the mercury be leſs than 30 inches, but add, if it be greater. Find the difference between theſe two remainders or ſums, and multiply it by the number of degrees by which the mean temperature exceeds the lower of the two adjacent temperatures in the table. Divide this product by 10, and add the quotient to the leaſt of the two remainders or ſums, laſt mentioned. The ſum will be the true correction in thouſandth parts of the logarithmic elevation. Reduce it into fathoms, by multiplying it into the logarithmic elevation, and dividing by 1000. This quotient being added to the logarithmic elevation, if the mean temperature exceeds 32°, or ſubtracted, if it fall ſhort of 32°, will give the true elevation or perpendicular diſtance between the two barometers.

Example. Suppoſe the following obſervations to be made, it is required to find the elevation, or vertical diſtance between the barometers.

Lower ſtation.	Upper ſtation.
Caernarvon quay.	Peak of Snowdon.
Height of mercury, 29.976 in.	26.289 inches.
Attached thermometer, 62½° -	46½°
Detached thermometer, 62 -	- 46

The computation. By the table (40, 2) the reduction for the lower barometer comes out 0.1, which, ſubtracted from 29.976, gives 29.876. By the ſame table, the reduction for 46½°, with a column of 26 inches, comes out .042, which, ſubtracted from 26.282, leaves 26.240 inches. Now, the logarithms of the reduced altitudes, 29.876, and 26.240, are 1.4753225, and 1.4189638, the difference of which is .0563587, or (43, 6) 563.587 fathoms.

The mean temperature between 62° and 46° is 54°, and conſequently the logarithmic reſult will require corrections by the ſecond table. The mean betweeen the two barometrical heights is 28 inches, or 2 inches below 30. The two numbers in the column of differences oppoſite the temperatures 52° and 62° are 2.0000, and 3.0555; theſe, multiplied by the number of inches, or 2, give 4.0000 and 6.111; the number 4.0000, ſubtracted from its oppoſite in the column of correction, 51.335, leaves 47.335; and the number 6.111, ſubtracted from 78.427, leaves 72.316; the difference between theſe remainders 47.335 and 72.316 is 24.981; which, multiplied by 2, the number of degrees by which the mean temperature 54° exceeds 52°, the lower of the two adjacent temperatures in the table, gives 49.962. This product, divided by 10, is 4.9962; which quotient, added to 47.335, the leaſt of the two remainders, makes 52.331, the true correction in thouſandth parts of the logarithmic elevation.

M The true correction 52.331, being multiplied by the logarithmic altitude 563, produces 29462.353; this divided by 1000 affords a quotient of 29.462353, which is the true correction in fathoms, to be added to the logarithmic elevation, becauſe the mean temperature exceeds 32°: the ſum, namely, 563.587, added to 29.462353, makes 593.049353 fathoms, or 3558.297118 feet, for the true elevation required *.

N The intelligent reader will readily perceive, that though the decimals in this computation are moſtly retained, yet, it will in general be ſufficiently exact, and much leſs operoſe, if only the two firſt decimal figures of any number be retained.

O The advantages of this method, compared with the geometrical method of meaſuring elevations are,

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* This method, which is taken from Col. Roy's excellent paper in the 77th volume of the Philoſophical Tranſactions, may be rendered more eaſy in the practice, by extending the tables ſo as to give the corrections at ſight, as is in ſome meaſure done in the original; but the brevity of the preſent work prevented their being copied here.

firſt, the inſtruments are neither very expenſive nor even difficult for an ingenious philoſopher to make in any country where he can procure quickſilver and glaſs tubes; but the geometrical method demands inſtruments of conſiderable price, which can ſcarcely at all be conſtructed by the moſt ingenious perſon who is deſtitute of the tools, and unacquainted with the artifices required to render them correct. Secondly, The barometers require no other adjuſtment than to obſerve previouſly, whether they agree, and to allow for their difference. The barometrical obſervations are likewiſe eaſily made; whereas, on the contrary, the previous adjuſtment and ſubſequent uſe of inſtruments for meaſuring angles require a degree of preciſion and ſkill not uſually obtained without practice. Thirdly, The error of obſervation in the barometrical method for all elevations is nearly a conſtant quantity, never amounting to ſo much as half a fathom for a miſtake of the 500th of an inch; but any error either in the meaſurement of lines or angles proportionally affects the reſult; ſo that the greater the elevation required to be meaſured, the larger the quantity of error. Fourthly, The barometrical obſervations require no particular circumſtances of advantage, either in the figure or ſituation of the mountains required to be meaſured, nothing more being required than that both ſtations be acceſſible. Theſe obſervations, and the computation, are performed after the ſame method in all caſes; but in the geometrical method, if the horizontal diſtance of the two ſtations be conſiderable, or if there be not a convenient plain for meaſuring a fundamental baſe, the operation becomes very complicated, and the chance of error is multiplied.

It muſt not, however, be diſguiſed, that the principles of the geometrical method are eſtabliſhed and ſure, and that an extreme degree of exactneſs may be obtained in this way by good inſtruments in the hands of a ſkilful obſerver. Whereas the modifications of the atmoſphere, with reſpect to the effect which exhalations of various kinds, and the greater or leſs abundance of the electric matter, may have in expanding the air, without changing its temperature, are not yet ſufficiently known to render the corrections altogether as perfect as might be wiſhed. Future obſervations muſt point out theſe, and in the mean time it is to be remembered, that the elevations determined by the barometer, when the extreme temperatures of the column of air do not greatly differ, and when the air is cold and dry, are moſt to be depended on *.

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* For a more full account of this curious ſubject, conſult De Luc's Recherches ſur les Modifications de l'Atmoſphere. Sir George Shuckburgh's valuable Obſervations made in Savoy, in order to aſcertain the height of mountains by means of the barometer, inſerted in the Philoſophical Tranſactions, vol. 7. with Col. Roy's, and Mr. de Luc's papers, in the ſame volume; alſo Damen's Diſſertatio Phyſica et Mathematica de Montium Altitudine barometro metienda: and the authors by him cited.

CHAP. II.

OF THE REFRACTIVE POWER OF THE AIR; AND THE CAUSE OF TWILIGHT.

THAT the celeſtial ſpace or heavens is either Q
nearly or abſolutely vacuous, appears from
the ſmall reſiſtance the planetary bodies ſuffer in
their motions; ſuch reſiſtance, if it obtain at all,
being too minute to be clearly aſcertained by any
obſervations we are in poſſeſſion of. Light there-
fore, when incident on our atmoſphere, paſſes from
a rarer to a denſer medium, and ought, according
to the principles of optics, to be refracted towards
the perpendicular (i. 262, A.) And this is accord-
ingly the caſe. Let the circle ABC (fig. 130.) R
repreſent a ſection of the Earth, and the external
concentric circle the ſurface of the atmoſphere; let
HN be the ſenſible horizon of a place A, and S the
Sun beneath the horizon; then a ray of light inci-
dent on the ſurface of the atmoſphere at I, will, in-
ſtead of proceeding to a, be refracted towards the
perpendicular IE, and that continually the more as
the denſity of the medium becomes greater, ſo that
it will arrive at A after paſſing through the curve
IA; and a ſpectator at A will behold the Sun in the
line of the laſt direction of the ray, namely, in that
of AS, the tangent to the curve. The apparent ele- S
vation which a celeſtial body ſuffers when its rays

fall with the greateſt obliquity, to wit, when it is ſeen in the horizon, is about thirty-three minutes of a degree: at other altitudes the differences between the true and apparent places are leſs, the incidences and refractions being leſs conſiderable.

T Hence it comes to paſs, that we ſee the celeſtial bodies for ſome time after they are ſet, and before they riſe in reality, by which means we enjoy about three days in the year more day-light than otherwiſe we ſhould: but in the northern parts, where the ſun riſes and ſets more obliquely, and the atmoſphere being condenſed by cold, refracts more ſtrongly, the difference is much greater.

U The refraction, as well as all the other phenomena produced by the atmoſphere, are variable, as the denſity of the air changes. This variation renders the obſervation of low altitudes uncertain, as the allowance for refraction cannot be collected with great preciſion from any tables. The trigonometrical admeaſurement of the heights of lofty mountains is likewiſe rendered leſs accurate from this cauſe.

V A method of diſcovering the height of the atmoſphere is deduced from obſervations of the morning and evening twilight. Notwithſtanding the very great tranſparency of the air, it may be rendered viſible by means of the rays of light reflected from its parts in all directions. This effect is ſeen when the beams of the Sun are admitted into a room through the window-ſhutter, and may frequently be obſerved when the Sun ſhines through the chaſms or openings in a dark cloud: from which cauſe it happens, that thoſe bodies which emit a very ſmall quantity of light are not to be diſcerned in this ſtronger light. In the day-time the ſtars W are inviſible, and the flame of a candle can ſcarcely be ſeen in the ſun-ſhine: were it not for this illumination the ſky would appear black, and the ſhady ſides of objects would be of a dark colour, nearly the ſame as at midnight.

The Sun ſhining on the globe of the earth can X illuminate but one hemiſphere at once, as has already been ſhewn; but it is not ſo with the atmoſphere which environs the globe. Thus, the illuminated part of the globe terminates at D and d, (fig. 128.) but the atmoſphere is enlightened as far as B and b. In conſequence of this it happens, that thoſe parts which have already entered into the dark hemiſphere, and to which therefore the Sun is ſet, muſt ſtill enjoy a degree of light that continues as long as any of the enlightened part of the atmoſphere remains in view. This light, which Y gradually decays after ſun-ſet, or increaſes before ſun-riſe, is called the twilight. Let A H C D d b (fig 129.) repreſent a ſection of the Earth in the plane of the Sun's azimuth, and let the ſpace contained between the concentric circles repreſent the atmoſphere: then, the Sun's rays in the directions S B, s b, will illuminate half the globe D C d, and the atmoſphere will be enlightened as far as B and b on each ſide within the dark hemiſphere; which enlightened part, ſo long as it continues above the horizon of any place, will cauſe a twilight at that place. The ray S D B is a tangent to the Earth at D, and meets the circumference of the atmoſphere at B. From B draw the line B h, a tangent to the Earth at A, which continue towards N; h N will then repreſent the horizon, in which the extreme point B of the enlightened part of the atmoſphere will be ſituated; that is, twilight will be juſt beginning or ending at the place A. The angle S B N, which is equal to the angle A E D, will be the angle of the Sun's depreſſion beneath the horizon H N; and the angle A E B is the half of A E D. Hence, if the depreſſion of the Sun beneath the horizon, and the ſemidiameter of the Earth be known, it will be eaſy to find the height of the atmoſphere. For, in the right angled triangle A B E,

As the ſine complement of half
  the Sun's depreſſion - - A E B 8° 30′
Is to the Earth's ſemidiameter - A E 3437 miles,
So is radius - - ſine 90°
To the hypothenuſe - - - E B 3475 miles.

The difference between which and the ſemidiameter of the Earth is the line H B, or height of the atmoſphere, 38 geographical, or 44 Engliſh miles. The angle of the Sun's depreſſion is known by the time elaſped between the beginning or end of twilight, and the riſing or ſetting of the Sun; and it is judged to be twilight ſo long as the illumination of the atmoſphere prevents the ſmaller fixed ſtars from appearing. It is alſo obſerved, that the evening are always longer than the morning twilights, which

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which muſt ariſe from the rarefaction of the air over the place, after the day's ſun-ſhine. A ſimilar difference is obſerved between the twilights of ſummer and winter.

This explanation is ſufficient to ſhew the cauſe B of the twilight. But in ſtrict computation the refraction to which the light is ſubject three times before it comes to the eye ſhould be allowed for, and will ſomewhat diminiſh the height deduced.

CHAP. III.

CONCERNING THE CAUSES BY WHICH THE SPRING OF THE AIR IS ALTERED, AND WINDS ARE PRODUCED.

THE expanſion of air by heat, while the preſ- C ſure remains the ſame, has already been taken notice of (40, x.) Heat therefore increaſes its ſpring, as may be ſhewn by the following experiment:

Let ADB (fig. 131.) repreſent a hollow glaſs- D ball, having a narrow bent tube ACGE affixed to it. The lower part of the bent tube, and part of the ball, is filled with mercury, as in the figure; the ſurface AB within the ball being on the ſame horizontal line with the ſurface at C in the tube. The parts of the mercury will then be in equilibrio, the external ſurface C being preſſed by the weight of the atmoſphere, and the internal ſurface A B being preſſed by the ſpring of the included air, which is equal to that weight. But if the ball be immerſed in boiling water, the increaſed ſpring of the included air preſſing on the ſurface A B, will raiſe the mercury from C to G, and there ſuſtain it, namely, at the height of $8\frac{4}{7}$ inches, when the mercury in the Torricellian tube ſtands at 30 inches. And as the contained air is not ſenſibly dilated by the extruſion of ſo ſmall a quantity of mercury, the ſuſtentation may be regarded as the entire effect of its ſpring. The ſpring of the included air at the heat of boiling water is therefore not only equal to the weight of the atmoſphere, but likewiſe to an additional preſſure of more than $\frac{8}{30}$ of that weight.

E By the ſame inſtrument, it is found, that the elaſticity of the air is weakened by immerſion in very cold or freezing mixtures. And concluſions ſimilar to theſe may be made by various methods, which the attentive learner will readily diſcover.

F In the foregoing experiment the air was prevented from expanding, in conſequence of its increaſed ſpring, by the preſſure of the mercury, but if, inſtead of putting mercury into the ball, a ſmall quantity be made to hang in the tube, as at G H, it will by its motion indicate the dilatation or contraction of the included air. G By a method ſimilar to this it is found, that from the point 0 in Fahrenheit's thermometer to the heat of boiling water, or 212°. common dry air expands ſo as to occupy an additional ſpace more than before, equal to the fraction

tion .48421 of its former bulk. But the expanſions of moiſt air are much greater *.

It will not be difficult from theſe experiments to point out the cauſes of many phenomena that happen in the air. For, if any part of the air be either heated, or charged with vapor, it will expand, and in conſequence of that expanſion become ſpecifically lighter than before. It muſt, therefore, by the laws of hydroſtatics, aſcend, and the circumambient air muſt preſs in on all ſides to ſupply its place. Hence the cauſe of the aſcent of ſmoke in a chimney. The air which paſſes through the fire, or comes within a certain diſtance from it, is rarefied, and aſcends, giving place to the cold air that preſſes in: this in its turn becomes rarefied, and the aſcending current of air continues as long as the fire is kept up, the wind drawing from all parts towards the chimney. H

If the fire were in the open air, the heated air would ſtill aſcend in a current, and the cooler air preſs in on all ſides; that is to ſay, a wind would be generated, which would conſtantly blow towards the fire. The quantity of air rarefied by any fire we can make is ſo ſmall, that the wind produced by that means is too inconſiderable to be perceived at any great diſtance from the fire; but the rarefactions I

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* Muſchenbroek's Cour de Phyſique may be conſulted for an abſtract of what has been done reſpecting the expanſion of air by *Amontons*, and others. But the moſt copious and valuable ſet of experiments are thoſe of Col. Roy, in the Philoſophical Tranſactions, part 2. for the year 1777.

ariſing from natural cauſes are ſufficient to produce all the winds that agitate the atmoſphere.

K The ſenſible horizon is not only divided into 360 degrees, like other great circles, but alſo into 32 equal parts, called points of the compaſs, which are again ſubdivided into halves and quarters. The points of the compaſs have each a ſeparate name. The points of interſection between the meridian and the horizon are termed North and South; and two other points, at the diſtance of 90° from the North and South, are termed Eaſt and Weſt: theſe four are denominated cardinal points. The intermediate points take their names from the cardinal points between which they are ſituated, as in the figure, where the initial letters N. S. E. W. (fig. 132.) ſtand for the words North, South, Eaſt, Weſt.

L A wind is named from the point of the compaſs from which it blows.

M The different winds may, with reſpect to their direction, be reduced into three claſſes, viz. general, periodical, and variable winds.

N General winds blow always nearly in the ſame direction. In the open ſeas, that is, in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, under the equator, the wind is found to blow almoſt conſtantly from the eaſtward; this wind prevails on both ſides of the equator to the latitude of 28°. To the northward of the equator, the wind is between the North and Eaſt, and the more northerly the nearer the northern limit; to the ſouthward of the equator, the wind is between the South and Eaſt, and the more ſoutherly the nearer the ſouthern limit.

O Between the parallels of 28° and 40° ſouth lat. in that tract which extends from 30° Weſt to 100° Eaſt longitude from the meridian of London, the wind is variable, but by far the greater part between the N. W. and S. W. ſo that the outward bound Eaſt India ſhips generally run down their eaſting on the parallel of 36° ſouth.

P Beyond the northern limit of the general wind in the Atlantic Ocean, the weſterly winds prevail, but not with any certainty of continuance.

Q Near the weſtern coaſt of Africa, within the limits of the general wind, the winds are found to be deflected towards the ſhore to ſuch a degree, that they are found to blow from the N. W. and S. W. quarters for the moſt part, inſtead of the N. E. and S. E. as is the caſe farther out at ſea.

R The general winds are uſually called trade-winds.

S In the Atlantic Ocean, the S. E. trade-wind extends as far as 3° north, and the N. E. trade-wind ceaſes at the 5th degree N. In the intermediate ſpace are found calms, with rain, and irregular uncertain ſqualls, attended with thunder and lightning. But this ſpace is ſhifted farther to the northward or ſouthward, accordingly as the Sun's declination is more northerly or ſoutherly.

T Periodical winds are thoſe which blow in a certain direction for a time, and at ſtated ſeaſons change and blow for an equal ſpace of time from the oppoſite point of the compaſs. Theſe may be divided into two claſſes, viz. monſoons, or winds that change annually; and land and ſea-breezes, or winds that change diurnally.

u While the Sun is to the northward of the equinoctial, that is to ſay, in the months of April, May, June, July, Auguſt, and September, the wind blows from the ſouthward over the whole extent of the Indian Ocean; namely, between the parallels of 28° N. and 28° S. latitude, and between the eaſtern coaſt of Africa and the meridian which paſſes through the weſtern part of Japan. In the ſea between Madagaſcar and New Holland, the S. E. wind prevails as far as the equator, where it is deflected, and blows into the Arabian Gulf and Bay of Bengal from the S. W. Between Madagaſcar and the main land of Africa, a S. S. W. wind obtains, and coincides with the S. W. winds in the Arabian Gulf. To the northward of New Holland, the S. E. wind is predominant, but varies very much among the iſlands; and between the peninſula of Malacca and the Iſland of Japan, a S. S. W. wind prevails. All this is to be underſtood for the aforementioned months.

v But in the other months, October, November, December, January, February, and March, a remarkable alteration takes place. In the ſea between Madagaſcar and New Holland, the S. E. wind extends no farther to the northward than about the 10th degree of ſouth latitude, the other 10 degrees being occupied by a wind from the oppoſite point of the compaſs, or N. W. at the ſame time that the winds in all the northern parts of the Indian Ocean ſhift round, and blow directly contrary to the courſe they held in the former ſix months. Theſe winds are called monſoons, or ſhifting trade-winds.

Theſe changes are not ſuddenly made. Some w
days before and after the change, there are calms, variable winds, and dreadful ſtorms, attended with thunder, lightning, and rain.

On the greater part of the coaſts of lands ſituated x
between the tropics, the wind blows towards the ſhore in the day-time, and towards the ſea in the night. Theſe periodical winds are termed the land and ſea breezes, and are much affected, both in their direction and return by the courſes of rivers, tides, &c.

Variable winds are thoſe which are ſubjected to y
no period, either in duration or return, and are too well known to need deſcription.

If the air were uniformly of the ſame denſity at z
the ſame height, and the lighter parts always repoſed upon the heavier, it is evident that, the lateral preſſure being equal in every horizontal direction, it would remain at reſt. But if, on the contrary, any portion or part of the air were heavier than the reſt, it would deſcend, or if lighter, aſcend till the equilibrium was reſtored; ſo that either the diſplaced air would occaſion a wind, diverging from a central ſpace in conſequence of the deſcent or pouring down of the heavier air, or elſe the air ruſhing in, would occaſion a wind converging to a central ſpace to ſupply the lighter aſcending ſtream. It A
is

is therefore evident, that any agent that alters the denſity of a part of the air will produce a wind.

B The denſity of air is changed by compreſſion, and by heat. Its elaſticity is increaſed by the addition of moiſture, and electricity may have likewiſe ſome effect of the ſame kind. The compreſſion the air ſuffers in the natural courſe of events, is nearly uniform, and experiments are wanting to decide, whether the addition of moiſture to air at any of the uſual temperatures does not augment its denſity as much as the increaſed elaſticity diminiſhes it; neither have any methods been yet deviſed to ſhew, whether air in different ſituations with reſpect to electricity is altered in its dimenſions. In conſidering the cauſes of winds, the principal agent to be attended to muſt therefore be heat.

C If the Earth did not revolve on its axis, it is plain that the Sun, being ſtationary over one particular ſpot, would rarefy the air at that ſpot: it would conſequently aſcend by the preſſure of the circumambient, and leſs rarefied air, till it arrived at a region in which the air was ſufficiently rare to ſuffer it to expand on all ſides: and thus there would be produced a converging wind near the ſurface of the Earth, and a contrary or divergent wind in the upper region of the air. But ſince the Earth does revolve on its axis, and the Sun therefore is not ſtationary, it muſt follow, that the place where the air is moſt rarefied will be found ſucceſſively in every point of the parallel over which the

Sun moves in the courſe of a day. And as this place continually moves to the weſtward, the lower air muſt as conſtantly follow it. Hence we have the origin of the general N. E. and S. E. trade-winds, which no doubt would extend over the whole of the ſpace between the tropics, were it not for the different temperatures of the continents and iſlands over which the Sun paſſes. For the ſurface of earth is more heated than that of the ſea, by reaſon that the tranſparency of the water permits many of the rays of light to paſs to its interior parts before they are ſtifled and loſt. The air therefore, contiguous to the land, being more heated than that which reſts upon the ſea, will prevent the regularity of the effect. Thus, near the weſtern coaſts of Africa and America, the winds blow from the weſtward, to ſupply the conſtant rarefaction thoſe heated lands produce.

The general N. E. and S. E. trade-winds, pro- D
ducing in the upper region of the air winds in the contrary directions, ſeem to be the cauſe of the weſterly winds which are obſerved to prevail between the latitudes of 28° and 40°.

In accounting for the monſoons, or periodical E
trade-winds, it is neceſſary to mark the peculiar circumſtances which obtain in the Indian Ocean, and which are not found in the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans. They ſeem to be theſe. That the ocean is bounded to the northward by ſhores, whoſe latitude does not exceed the limits of the general trade-wind, and that the general trade-wind falls on lee-ſhores to the weſtward.

The

F The Sun being twice in the year vertical in the equator, and never departing more than 23½° from thence, cauſes the air in that climate to be hotter than at any other place on the ocean; and is the occaſion of the trade-wind, as has already been ſhewn. Such a rarefied ſpace muſt extend acroſs the Indian Ocean, and produce a S. E. wind to the ſouthward, and a N. E. wind to the northward of the equator, over which, in the upper regions of the air, the winds return in the contrary directions. This we accordingly ſee happens in the months of October, November, December, January, February, and March. But when the Sun declines to the northward, and heats the lands there, the air contiguous to thoſe lands becomes rarefied, and the lower air has a tendency to move that way. This tendency increaſes as the Sun advances farther North, ſo that the whole body of the lower air to the northward of the equator moves towards the northern lands, notwithſtanding the equatorial rarefaction, which muſt be ſupplied by the upper or G returning current. It ſeems then that the body of the lower air in the northern part of the Indian Ocean is determined as to its courſe by the greater rarefaction: if the rarefaction at the ſurface of the land be greater than that at the equator, the wind blows to the North, and the contrary happens when the equatorial rarefaction is greateſt. When the northerly trade-wind prevails, it blows out of the Arabian Gulf upon the coaſts of Arabia, Aynan and Zanguebar, and is reflected into the ſtraits of

Moſambique. And at the other ſeaſon, the general ſoutherly wind ſeems to be reflected to the weſtward by the ſame cauſe.

H Theſe, or ſome ſuch like, are probably the cauſes of the winds that prevail in the Indian ſeas. But the obſervations we are in poſſeſſion of are too few and too inaccurate for the purpoſe of forming a theory.

I On the ſame principles it will not be difficult to account for the land and ſea breezes. For, becauſe the land is heated in the day-time, the wind muſt blow in ſhore to ſupply the place of the aſcending rarefied air: and in the night the land cools, and condenſes the air, occaſioning the land breeze.

K The circumſtances that produce the variable winds are referable to thoſe already noticed, but act ſo differently in particular caſes and ſituations, that it is ſcarcely practicable to reduce them to any rule.

L When ſeveral winds converge ſwiftly to one point, the air aſcends with great rapidity, and acquires a whirling motion, like that of water deſcending in a funnel. And as the centrifugal force in this whirling motion of the water is often ſufficient to counterpoiſe the lateral preſſure, and to prevent its approaching the central part, it frequently happens, that a perforation is ſeen quite through the body of the fluid. In like manner, the centrifugal force of the air may become equal to the preſſure of the atmoſphere, and conſequently leave a void ſpace about the center of the motion. This phenomenon is called a whirlwind, and ſometimes produces fatal effects. For, partly by the expanſion of the air included in houſes or other buildings, and partly by the violence of the aſcending current, it happens, that bodies near the center of the whirl are blown up into the vacuum, or carried aloft with great impetuoſity in a ſpiral motion.

M If one of theſe whirlwinds happen at ſea, the preſſure of the atmoſphere being taken off that part of the ſurface over which the vacuum is formed, the water, on the principle of the Torricellian tube, will riſe to the height of thirty-two or thirty-three feet before it will be in equilibrio with the external preſſure. The aſcending warm air being moſt probably charged with vapours, will ſuffer them to be condenſed as it arrives in a colder region, and thus the courſe of the current will be marked by the denſe and opake vapor, and by the continual aſcent a cloud will be formed above. Theſe are the phenomena of water-ſpouts. At firſt a violent circular motion of the ſea is obſerved for a ſpace ſometimes of twenty feet diameter; the ſea riſes afterwards by degrees into a tapering column of about thirty feet in height, at the ſame time that a cloud appears, from which a dark line or column deſcends. This column is met by another, which aſcends ſomewhat like ſmoke in a chimney, from the lower or ſolid part of the ſpout. After this junction the cloud continually increaſes till the whirl ceaſes, and the appearance terminates.

CHAP. IV.

OF SOUND; AND OF MUSIC.

N WHEN obtuſe bodies move in elaſtic fluids, they condenſe that part towards which they move at the ſame time that the part they recede from is rarefied. This condenſation or rarefaction muſt produce an undulatory or vibrating motion in the fluid. Thus, if a body by percuſſion or otherwiſe be put into a tremulous motion, every vibration of the body will excite a wave in the air, which will proceed in all directions ſo as to form a hollow ſphere; and the quicker the vibrations of the body ſucceed each other, the leſs will be the diſtance between each ſucceſſive wave. O The ſenſation excited in the mind by means of theſe waves which enter the ear, and produce a like motion in a thin membrane, ſtretched obliquely acroſs the auditory paſſage, is called ſound. But the term is frequently uſed to imply not only the ſenſation excited in the mind, but likewiſe the affection of the air, or of the ſonorous body by which that ſenſation is produced. Thus, we ſay, that a ſound is in the air, or that a body ſounds when ſtruck, though the affection of the air or body is very different from the ſenſation.

P That bodies move or tremble when they produce ſound, requires no particular proof: it is evident in drums, bells, and other inſtruments, whoſe vibrations being large and ſtrong, are therefore more perceptible: and it is equally clear, that a ſimilar vibration is excited in the air, becauſe this vibration is communicated through the air to other bodies that are adapted to vibrate in the ſame manner: thus, bells, glaſſes, baſons, and muſical ſtrings, will ſound merely by the action propagated from other ſounding bodies.

Q It is eſtabliſhed as well by mathematical reaſoning from the nature of an elaſtic fluid, as from experiment, that all ſounds whatever arrive at the ear in equal times from ſounding bodies equally diſtant.

R This common velocity is 1142 Engliſh feet in a ſecond of time. The knowledge of the velocity of ſound is of uſe for determining diſtances of ſhips, or other objects: for inſtance, ſuppoſe a ſhip fires a gun, the ſound of which is heard 5 ſeconds after the flaſh is ſeen; then, 1142 multiplied by 5, gives the diſtance 5710 feet, or 1 Engliſh mile and 430 feet.

S When the aerial waves meet with an obſtacle which is hard, and of a regular ſurface, they are reflected; and conſequently, an ear placed in the courſe of theſe reflected waves will perceive a ſound ſimilar to the original ſound, but which will ſeem to proceed from a body ſituated in like poſition and diſtance behind the plane of reflection as the real ſounding body is before it. This reflected ſound is called an echo.

T The waves of ſound being thus reflexible, nearly the ſame in effect as the rays of light, may be deflected or magnified by much the ſame contrivances as are uſed in optics. From this property of reflection it happens, that ſounds uttered in one focus of an elliptical cavity are heard much magnified in the other focus: inſtances of which are found in ſeveral domes and vaults, particularly the whiſpering gallery at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, where a whiſper uttered at one ſide of the dome is reflected to the other, and may be very diſtinctly heard. On this principle alſo is conſtructed the ſpeaking trumpet, which either is or ought to be a hollow parabolic conoid, having a perforation at the vertex, to which the mouth is to be applied in ſpeaking, or the ear in hearing.

In addition to the advantages we enjoy from the perception of ſound, when the ſenſe of ſeeing cannot be employed, and in conveying our thoughts to each other by means of the aſſociations formed between words and ideas, we receive great pleaſure from the combination of ſound known by the name of muſic. u

If a body be ſtruck, and the vibrations excited be all performed in equal times, the undulations produced in the air will be ſo likewiſe, and a ſimple and uniformly ſimilar ſound will be produced, except as to loudneſs or intenſity; for, as the vibrations grow leſs ſtrong, the ſound decays. But if the vibrations excited be various and diſſimilar, a like variety of diſſimilar undulations will be produced in the air; and the ſound muſt be harſh, as if ſeveral v ſounds were heard together. The firſt of theſe ſounds is a muſical tone, and the latter a noiſe.

w This is confirmed by experience; for we find that thoſe bodies which are the moſt uniform in their texture, and by conſequence beſt adapted to vibrate ſimply and iſochronally, always produce the moſt muſical tones; as for example, maſſes of elaſtic metal, braſs, caſt-iron, and the like. And this tone is more ſtrictly muſical if the metal be ſo formed as to vibrate in the ſimpleſt manner poſſible. Thus, a hollow metallic veſſel or bell, if it be well formed, and not damaged in the tuning, will give but one uniform muſical tone, or at leaſt the tones produced will conſiſt of one predominant or principal tone, and ſeveral others that have a perfect muſical agreement with it. A wire of an uniform thickneſs, ſtretched over two hard bridges or fulcrums, will produce the ſame effect. Muſical tones may be obtained by various means; but it will ſufficiently anſwer our preſent purpoſe to attend only to the ſimpleſt method wherein ſtrings or wires are made uſe of.

x Experience and reaſon have eſtabliſhed the following poſitions reſpecting the vibrations of chords or ſtrings.

Y The forces or weights which are neceſſary to draw an extended chord A B (fig. 133.) out of its place to the diſtances c e, c f, c g, are directly proportional to thoſe diſtances, provided the chord be not too much drawn aſide.

Therefore, ſince the forces with which the chord z returns to its firſt ſituation, when ſet at liberty, are always in proportion to the ſpace it has to paſs through, the vibrations muſt all be performed in equal times.

If chords differ only in thickneſs, the times of A their vibrations will be directly as their diameters.

If chords differ only in tenſion, the times of B their vibrations will be inverſely as the ſquare roots of the weights by which they are ſtretched.

If chords differ only in length, the times of their C vibrations will be directly as their lengths.

That tone produced by a ſtring that vibrates D quickly is termed acute or ſharp, when compared with the tone of a ſtring that vibrates ſlower; and the tone produced by the latter is called grave or flat, when compared with that of the former.

If two chords be ſtruck, either at the ſame inſtant E or in immediate ſucceſſion, the coincidence of ſound is pleaſing or diſpleaſing, accordingly as the two tones produced ſtand related to each other in gravity or acuteneſs: if they be ſo related as to afford pleaſure, the coincidence is called a concord, but if not, it is termed a diſcord.

A ſet of tones which follow each other, and afford F pleaſure, is called melody; a ſet of cotemporary tones which afford pleaſure, is called harmony.

The more frequently the vibrations of two chords G coincide with each other the perfecter the concord will be; thus, two equal ſtrings, equally ſtretched, will each give the ſame tone; the vibrations of the one will coincide with thoſe of the other, and the concord will be moſt perfect: again, two ſtrings, differing only in length; the one being half the length of the other, will vibrate the one twice while the other vibrates once, the coincidence will be at every ſecond vibration of the ſhorter ſtring, and a concord will be produced, but leſs perfect; if the ſtrings be in length as 2 to 3, the coincidence will be leſs frequent, namely, at the third vibration of the ſhorter ſtring, and the concord will be ſtill leſs perfect: and ſo forth.

H By the help of theſe principles all ſtringed in-
ſtruments are conſtructed; that ſeries of muſical
tones being ſelected, which experience has ſhewn
to be beſt adapted for the purpoſes of melody and
I harmony. The ſeries is called the diatonic ſcale,
and its properties, together with the names of the
tones, may be ſeen in the following ſcheme:

Names.	Lengths.	Perfection.
Uniſon, or fundamental	1 : 1	Moſt perfect concord.
Second - -	10 : 9	Diſcord.
Third greater	5 : 4	Imperfect concord.
Fourth - - -	4 : 3	Imperfect concord.
Fifth - - -	3 : 2	Perfect concord.
Sixth greater -	5 : 3	Imperfect concord.
Seventh greater	15 : 8	Diſcord.
Octave - -	2 : 1	Perfect concord.

K The above is called the ſharp ſeries, in contradiſtinction to the flat ſeries, or ſcale, wherein the third, ſixth, and ſeventh are leſs or flat, being in the ratios of 6 : 5, 8 : 5 and 9 : 5. There are likewiſe other intermediate tones uſed in practice, as the ſecond leſs, and fourth greater, whoſe lengths are as 16 : 15, and 7 : 5. All theſe are found in the conſtruction of inſtruments; that by their means the performer may place his fundamental, or principal note, on any of the tones at pleaſure, and uſe the other tones which ſtand in the above relations to it; ſuch being found ſufficiently near for practice, though not ſo perfectly accurate as in the ſeries the inſtrument is formed for.

The notation of muſic, and the relations of different ſcales to each other, together with the other particulars on which the rules for compoſition and accompanyment depend, require too copious an explanation to be admitted in this place. L

CHAP. V.

A DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS INSTRUMENTS, CONSISTING CHIEFLY OF SUCH AS DEPEND ON THE PROPERTIES OF THE AIR FOR THEIR EFFECTS.

M THE mercury in the Torricellian tube ſtands at the height of about thirty inches, by means of the preſſure of the air; and in conſidering the phenomena of winds, we have ſeen that this preſſure is not every where alike, nor always the ſame at any particular place. In conſequence of this it happens, that the mercury in the Torricellian tube does not preſerve the ſame invariable altitude: for, when the air at any place is denſe, the mercury ſtands at a greater height than when it becomes lighter (32, B): thus the tube becomes an inſtrument to indicate the varying weight of the atmoſphere, and when fixed in a proper frame with graduations to meaſure the altitude of the mercury, is known by the name of the barometer. The variations are between the altitudes of 27½ and 30½ inches.

N The heights of two barometers cannot be compared together with any exactneſs, unleſs they be both conſtructed in the beſt manner. The ſpecific gravity of the included mercury ought to be accurately found; and it is neceſſary to boil it in the tube, for the purpoſe of effectually excluding the air and moiſture from within. If the ſurface of the mercury expoſed to the air be larger than that in the tube, and this laſt be leſs than half an inch in diameter, the mercury will not riſe to its full height. This difference ought to be known, and allowed for between different barometers.

The inſtrument, fig. 131. is uſed under the name of the marine barometer, it being uſeful at ſea, where the common barometer is of little ſervice, on account of the ſhip's motion, which cauſes the mercury to librate up and down in the tube. But as this barometer is ſubject to alteration, on account of heat and cold, as well as on account of change in the weight of the air; and the diſtinguiſhing the effects of each is attended with ſome little trouble, it is not much in uſe on ſhore. O

There are many contrivances for enlarging the diviſions on the barometer, ſuch as inclining the tube, and the like; but they are all ſubject to inconveniences, on account of friction, which the upright barometer is free from. P

An inſtrument ſimilar to the marine barometer was formerly made uſe of to indicate the varying temperature of the weather. For the marine barometer is alſo a thermometer, and its variations being thus occaſioned by two cauſes, prevent its being applied to either purpoſe. The thermometer, or inſtrument uſed to exhibit degrees of heat and cold is therefore conſtructed by the uſe of other fluids. Q

R The property of expanſion by heat not being peculiar to air, but common to all bodies, we are at liberty to chooſe any ſubſtance in nature for a thermometer. In this choice it is required, that the body made uſe of ſhould be ſuch, that its expanſions may be the effect of heat alone, that they may be eaſily and correctly meaſured, and that the body may be capable of performing its office in temperatures very diſtant from each other. As the preſſure of the atmoſphere is not conſiderable enough to alter the dimenſions of denſe bodies in any ſenſible degree, it is plain that their mutations will indicate the effects of heat alone, and conſequently they muſt be very proper for the matter of thermometers: but theſe mutations being very ſmall in proportion to the whole bulk, ſolid bodies muſt be inconvenient for the purpoſe, on account of the great length required to make them perceptible: but in fluids, by means of proper veſſels, it will be eaſy to render the leaſt alteration viſible; for if the neck or ſtem of any glaſs-veſſel be very ſmall in proportion to the contents of the bulb or bottle, the leaſt expanſion of the included liquor will occaſion a viſible riſe in the neck. Thus, A B (fig. 134.) repreſents a glaſs-tube, whoſe end A is blown into a ball: this ball, and part of the tube, being filled with quickſilver, the leaſt change of the bulk of the quickſilver, and conſequently of the temperature of the circumambient air, or contiguous bodies, is ſhewn by a riſe or fall of the ſurface in the tube; the quantity of which is indicated by the ſcale a b, affixed to the frame of the inſtrument.

Quickſilver is the beſt fluid for thermometers, becauſe it is not ſubject either to alter its expanſibility, or to ſoil the tube, and gives beſides a very extenſive ſcale of diviſions. The thermometer uſed in Britain is graduated according to the ſcale of the celebrated Fahrenheit. There are 180 diviſions or degrees between the freezing and boiling water points; the freezing point being reckoned 32° above 0, or the commencement of the ſcale *. The degrees are counted both upwards and downwards from 0. A good thermometer muſt poſſeſs the following properties. The upper end muſt be hermetically ſealed, and the empty ſpace above the quickſilver muſt contain no air, or at moſt very little. This circumſtance is aſcertained by holding the inſtrument with the ball uppermoſt; in which ſituation the mercury will immediately run ſo as to fill the whole capacity of the tube. The ſcale muſt be well adjuſted, and divided according to the capacity of the tube. To prove this, let the thermometer be taken from its ſcale, and laid in ſnow, or pounded ice, juſt beginning to melt: it ſhould be covered nearly as high as the freezing point, or 32° is ſuppoſed to lie. When the mercury becomes ſtationary, mark the tube with the edge of a knife where it ſtands, or, if there be a mark ready made, as there commonly is, obſerve whether it accurately

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* Reaumur's ſcale, principally uſed by the French, begins at the freezing point, and proceeds both ways from 0. From freezing to boiling water is 80 degrees.

agrees with the ſurface of the mercury; if it does, the freezing point is well ſettled. Wrap now ſeveral folds of linen rags or flannel round the tube of the thermometer nearly as high as the ſuppoſed boiling point; hold the ball of the thermometer in the aſcending current of boiling rain-water about two or three inches below the ſurface; pour boiling water on the rags three or four times, waiting a few ſeconds between each time, and wait ſome ſeconds after the laſt time of pouring on water before the boiling point is marked on the tube, in order that the water may recover its full ſtrength of boiling, which is conſiderably checked by pouring on the boiling water. This laſt experiment muſt be made when the barometer ſtands at 29.8 inches. The adjuſtment of the fixed points being thus aſcertained, faſten the thermometer again to its ſcale, and agitate it ſo as to break or divide the thread of mercury in the tube. By variouſly inclining the inſtrument the ſeparated portion of mercury may be made to reſt in different parts of the tube, and its length obſerved on the ſcale. If its length in every part of the tube correſponds to the ſame number of degrees, the ſcale is well divided. This laſt object is by no means to be neglected: for it ſeldom happens that the diameters of thermometer-tubes are ſufficiently regular to admit of a ſcale divided into equal parts. Such a ſcale will uſually produce an error of upwards of a degree near the temperature of 120°, though the fixed points be ever ſo well ſettled; and in ſome inſtances the error may even amount to four or five degrees.

Thermometers with ſmall bulbs, and tubes in proportion, are the moſt uſeful. For a large volume of mercury requires a conſiderable time to be either heated or cooled, and if it be immerſed in any liquid, it will change the temperature of the liquid much more than a ſmaller inſtrument would have done, and conſequently is leſs adapted to ſhew the temperature of the liquid at the time of its immerſion. If the ſcale of a thermometer be of a dark colour, and the thread of mercury ſmall, its ſtation will be rendered more diſcernible by ſlipping a piece of white paper behind the tube. u

The preſſure of the atmoſphere on the outſide of a thermometer not being counteracted by the ſpring of any included air, is exerted in diminiſhing the ſize of the bulb, and ſuſtains the mercury ſomewhat higher than it would ſtand, merely by reaſon of its temperature. This is proved by breaking off the ſealed end of the tube; in conſequence of which the mercury immediately falls. This quantity varies with the weight of the atmoſphere, but the quantity of the variation can ſeldom amount to more than the tenth part of a degree. Thermometers with ſpherical bulbs are leſs acted on by the weight of the atmoſphere than others. v

If the bent tube C E D (fig. 135.) be filled with water, and the ſhorter leg E C immerſed in the water contained in the veſſel A B, the water will all w all flow out at the aperture D, and the veſſel will be emptied. For the preſſure that ſupports the water in the leg C E is equal to the weight of the atmoſphere, and is counteracted by the weight of the column E C, and the preſſure that ſupports the water in the leg D E is the ſame weight, but counteracted by the column E D. And as E D is longer than E C, the preſſure of the atmoſphere on D will be leſs effectual than that on C; conſequently the whole maſs of water in the tube will move towards the orifice D, receding from the greater preſſure. This inſtrument is called a ſyphon, and is ſometimes uſed to draw liquors out of caſks that are ſo placed as not conveniently to be moved.

x A very probable account of the cauſe of intermitting ſprings may be given on the principle of the ſyphon. For, let G F C (fig. 136.) repreſent a cavity or receptacle in the bowels of a mountain, from the bottom of which C, proceeds the irregular cavity or ſyphon C E D: then, if by ſprings or otherwiſe the receptacle begin to fill, the water will at the ſame time riſe in the leg C E of the ſyphon till it has attained the horizontal level H H: when it will begin to flow out by means of the leg E D, and will continue to increaſe in the quantity diſcharged, as the water riſes ſtill higher, till at length the ſyphon will emit a full ſteam, and by that means empty the receptacle. At this period the ſtream will ceaſe, till the receptacle being again filled, will again exhibit the ſame appearance. And theſe periodical returns of flood and ceſſation will be regular, if the filling of the reſervoir be ſo; but the interval of the returns muſt depend on the dimenſions of the apparatus, and the quantity of water furniſhed by the ſprings.

The action of that very uſeful inſtrument the common pump, depends on the preſſure of the atmoſphere. It conſiſts of a pipe C D (fig. 137.) whoſe lower end C is immerſed in water: at B is fixed a valve, opening upwards, and in the ſuperior part of the tube is worked a piſton A, fitted very cloſely in the pipe by means of leather. In this alſo is a valve opening upwards. Now, if the part above B be filled with water, to render the whole air-tight, the piſton A being thruſt down to B, and afterwards raiſed, will leave a vacuum or void ſpace between B and A, into which the air contained in the lower part of the pipe C B, will expand itſelf. The ſpring of this air being thus weakened by the expanſion, will no longer counterpoiſe the effect of the preſſure of the atmoſphere, and the water will riſe in the tube till the equilibrium is reſtored. By depreſſing the piſton A, the valve B is ſuffered to cloſe, and a part of the air between the valve and piſton eſcapes through A. After a few ſtrokes, the whole of the included air is extracted, the water riſes through the valve B, and is diſcharged by the piſton A. This operation may be continued at pleaſure. But if the height B C be more than 34 feet, the water will not riſe to the valve; for a column of freſh water of that length being equal to the weight of the atmoſphere, it can be raiſed no higher by that weight. Y Z weight. Thus it happens for the ſame reaſon that the mercury in the barometer never riſes beyond a certain height; and if a pump, finiſhed with the utmoſt exactneſs on the principle here deſcribed, be made to work in mercury, it will not raiſe it beyond that height.

A The fire-engine acts by means of the weight and elaſticity of the air. For it is compoſed of two barrels, E and D, (fig. 138.) in each of which a ſolid piſton or plunger is worked by means of a double lever. Theſe barrels communicate with the water by a pipe, not expreſſed in the figure: they alſo communicate with the ſtrong cylinder or veſſel C C, by the pipes L and T. At M and K in the barrels are valves opening upwards, and at L and T are valves which open towards the cylinder. In the figure, the piſton in D being raiſed, the water ruſhes in at K, while that in E being depreſſed, forces its contents into the cylinder through the valve T. At the next ſtroke the barrel E raiſes the water, while the contents of the barrel D are forced into the cylinder: and thus the alternate actions of raiſing and forcing may be continued at pleaſure. Now, the water being forced into the cylinder, compreſſes the air contained within into a ſmall ſpace; and this air reacting on the water, drives it in a continual ſtream through the pipe P O Q R, which may be directed as neceſſity ſhall require.

B The great force of compreſſed air is ſhewn by many experiments, particularly in the performance of the wind-gun. Fig. 139. repreſents a ſection of this inſtrument. AK is the barrel, containing a ball at K. This barrel is contained within another larger tube CDRE, and in the intermediate cavity, the air is compreſſed and kept. MN is a cylindrical cavity in the ſtock or butt end of the piece, in which a piſton works, for the purpoſe of forcing the air into the before-mentioned cavity. The air is prevented from returning by the ſhut or valve P, which is opened by the air, as it is forced in, but at other times, is kept ſhut by the ſpring of the included air. At L is placed another valve, preſſed cloſe by means of a ſpring on the orifice of the barrel, to prevent the air from eſcaping. A wire paſſing through a hole, rendered air-tight by wet and greaſy leather, is affixed to this valve, and appears afterwards at O, in the form of a trigger. When the trigger is drawn back, the valve L opens, and the air ruſhing out, drives the ball with a force that ſeems not much leſs than if it were diſcharged from a muſquet.

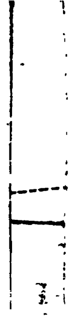
A variety of curious and pleaſing fountains may be formed by the help of the properties of the ai combined with hydroſtatical principles. The fo lowing is one of the ſimpleſt. ABCD (fig. 140.) is copper veſſel, near two-thirds filled with water: M is ſcrewed in the tube IG, the junction bein made air-tight by means of wet and greaſy leather, and in the upper part of the tube is fixed a ſtop-cock H. The ſtop-cock being opened, a forcing ſyringe is ſcrewed on at I, and a great quantity of air injected, whence the air in the cavity ABFE being very much condenſed, preſſes on the ſurface of the included water. The ſtop-cock being then ſhut, the ſyringe is removed, and an adjutage ſcrewed on in its place; through which, if the ſtop-cock be again opened, the water will ſpout forth with great violence.

D Fig. 141. is a drawing of a very ingenious fountain, whoſe conſtruction will be better underſtood from the ſection exhibited in fig. 142. BC is an open diſh, or veſſel. RS and TU are reſervoirs for water; each of which is divided into two by the partitions VI and XY. The tube EF paſſes through without communicating with the upper reſervoir, and ſerves to convey water from the baſon BC to the part TXY of the lower reſervoir. The tube OX forms a communication between the part TXY of the lower, and RVI of the upper reſervoir. The tube IK forms a communication between the part RVI of the upper, and YXU of the lower reſervoir. And the tube ML forms a communication between the part YXU of the lower, and IVS of the upper reſervoir. Laſtly, there are openings at ONPQ, to fill or evacuate the reſervoirs, and an adjutage pipe DI communicating with the part IVS. The mode of action is this: water being poured into the upper reſervoir by the openings O and N, the fountain is ſet upright, the openings being previouſly cloſed, and alſo the adjutage D. The baſon BC muſt then have water poured into it till it ceaſes to run down the pipe EF. In this ſtate the fountain may be ſaid to be charged. For the water that has paſſed down E F condenſes the air in the part T X Y, and alſo in the ſuperior part R V I, by means of the tube of communication G H. In the ſame manner the water paſſes from the upper reſervoir down the tube I K into the other lower part Y X U, and condenſes the air there as well as in the other upper part V I S, by means of the pipe of communication M L. The water in the upper part V I S is therefore preſſed by air condenſed by the weight of the column I K, and alſo of the column E F, becauſe I K is in effect preſſed by this laſt. Open the adjutage D, and the water will iſſue out and riſe (20, B) to nearly the height of both the columns E F and I K together. The water in both thoſe columns muſt deſcend, but as the tube E F is ſupplied by the falling jet that iſſues out of the chamber V I S, while the tube I K is ſupplied by the water from the chamber R V I, the fountain will continue to play till the upper chambers V I S and R V I have reſpectively emptied themſelves into the lower chambers T X Y and Y X U.

In many mechanical engines, where the force of an elaſtic fluid is required, the ſteam of boiling water is made uſe of, becauſe it is eaſily obtained, is prodigiouſly elaſtic, and may be quickly deprived of its elaſticity. E

The firſt engine we have any account of, for raiſing water by the force of ſteam, was conſtructed about a century ago upon the principle of the figure, (fig. 143.) where H repreſents a copper F boiler placed on a furnace. E is a ſtrong iron veſſel communicating with the boiler by means of a pipe at top, and with the main pipe A B, by means of a pipe I at bottom. A B is the main pipe immerſed in the water at B. D and C are two fixed valves, both opening upwards, one being placed above, and the other below the pipe of communication I. Laſtly, at G is a cock that ſerves occaſionally to wet and cool the veſſel E, by water from the main pipe, and F is a cock in the pipe of communication between the veſſel E and the boiler.

G The engine is ſet to work, by filling the copper in part with water, and alſo the upper part of the main pipe above the valve C, the fire in the furnace being lighted at the ſame time. When the water boils ſtrongly, the cock F is opened, the ſteam ruſhes into the veſſel E, and expels the air from thence through the valve C. The veſſel E thus filled, and violently heated by the ſteam, is ſuddenly cooled by the water which falls on it upon turning the cock G, the cock F being at the ſame time ſhut, to prevent any freſh acceſſion of ſteam from the boiler. In conſequence of this, the ſteam in E becoming condenſed, leaves the cavity within almoſt intirely vacuous: the preſſure of the atmoſphere at B, therefore, forces the water through the valve D till the veſſel E is nearly filled. The condenſing cock G is then ſhut, and the ſteam cock F again opened; the ſteam ruſhing into E, expels the water through the valve C, as it before



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p.190.

Fig.23.

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did the air. Thus E becomes again filled with hot ſteam, which is again cooled and condenſed by the water from G, the ſupply of ſteam being cut off by ſhutting F, as in the former operation: the water conſequently ruſhes through D, by the preſſure of the atmoſphere at B, and E is again filled. This water is forced up the main pipe through C, by opening F and ſhutting G, as before. It is eaſy to conceive, that by this alternate opening and ſhutting the cocks, water will be continually raiſed, as long as the boiler continues to ſupply the ſteam.

For the ſake of perſpicuity, the drawing is di- H veſted of the apparatus that ſerves to turn the two cocks at once, and of the contrivances for filling the copper to the proper quantity. The engines of this conſtruction were uſually made to work with two receivers or ſteam veſſels, one to receive the ſteam, while the other was raiſing water by the condenſation. This inſtrument has been ſince improved, by admitting the end of the condenſing pipe G into the veſſel E, by which means the ſteam is more ſuddenly and effectually condenſed than by water on the outſide of the veſſel.

The advantages of this engine are, that it may I be erected in almoſt any ſituation, requires but little room, and is ſubject to very little friction in its parts: its diſadvantages are, that great part of the ſteam is condenſed, and loſes its force upon coming into contact with the water in the veſſel E, and that the heat and elaſticity of the ſteam muſt

be

be increaſed in proportion to the height the water is required to be raiſed to. On both theſe accounts a large fire is required, and the copper muſt be very ſtrong, when the height is conſiderable, otherwiſe there is danger of its burſting. The following engine is much to be preferred when the work to be done is heavy, and is leſs chargeable in fuel, becauſe it acts by means of ſteam whoſe denſity is not much greater than that of the common air.

K In fig. 144. H repreſents the copper boiler on its furnace. E is a cylindrical veſſel of iron, in which the piſton O O moves up and down; the edges of the piſton being armed with oakum and greaſe, render the whole cavity between the piſton and the bottom of the cylinder air-tight. F is a cock to admit ſteam into the cylinder from the boiler. I K is a lever, attached to the piſton at I, and at K to the piſton of a pump which works on that ſide. P Q is a ſolid piſton moving in the pipe R M, and loaded with a heavy weight at P. A B C is the main pipe that receives the water forced from R M through a valve C opening outwards. N is an air-veſſel communicating with the main pipe. D is a valve opening upwards, and at M is the water to be raiſed.

L In the drawing, the engine is repreſented in the poſition it has at the end of a forcing ſtroke, which is likewiſe its poſition when at reſt. Suppoſe the main pipe A B C to be filled with water, and the water in the copper H to boil ſtrongly.

The cock F being then opened, the ſteam ruſhes into the cylinder, and being much lighter than the air, riſes to the top, and expels the air through a valve in the bottom of the cylinder. This being accompliſhed, F is ſhut, and the cock G communicating with the main pipe is opened, which immediately condenſes the ſteam, by violently ſpouting cold water againſt the bottom of the piſton. A vacuum being thus obtained, the preſſure of the atmoſphere forces the piſton down to the bottom of the cylinder; the lever I K is moved of courſe, the piſton P Q with its weight is raiſed, and the water aſcends in the pipe M R upon the principle of the common pump. The cock G being now ſhut, and F opened, the ſteam enters the cylinder, and counteracts the preſſure of the atmoſphere on the piſton O O. In conſequence of this, the weight P prevails, and drives down the piſton R Q, forcing the water through the valve C into the main pipe and its air veſſel. The uſe of the air veſſel is to prevent the main pipe from burſting by the ſudden entrance of the water; for the air at N being elaſtic, gives way to the ſtroke, and its reaction during the time of elevating the piſton P Q continues the motion of the water, ſo that its velocity is no more than half what it would have been if it had been impelled by ſtarts, and reſted during the raiſing of the piſton. By opening the cock G and ſhutting F, the ſteam is again condenſed, the preſſure of the atmoſphere again prevails, and thus the work may be continued at pleaſure.

M In this drawing likewiſe, the mechaniſm is omitted, that ſerves to open and ſhut the cocks. This office is performed by a beam and ropes attached to the lever I K; ſo that the attendance required is very little more than is neceſſary to ſupply the boiler with water, and to prevent the fire from going out.

N The chief advantage of this engine beyond the former is, that the water may be forced to any height without increaſing the force of the ſteam, which never need be much greater than that of the atmoſphere; and therefore the boiler is very little endangered. The maximum of its power depends upon the area of the piſton O O; for the larger the area, the greater the column of the atmoſphere that preſſes it, and conſequently the heavier the weight P may be. If O O be 36 inches in diameter, it will be preſſed by a column of the atmoſphere equal in weight to a column of mercury of that diameter, and 30 inches in height; that is to ſay, almoſt 7 ton.

O But, notwithſtanding the great ſkill and contrivance diſplayed in this engine, it is at preſent almoſt entirely ſuperſeded by one of a much better conſtruction, invented and perfected by Meſſrs. Watt and Boulton, of Birmingham. In their engine, inſtead of the piſton O O being depreſſed by means of the weight of the atmoſphere, the ſteam is thrown upon it, the upper part of the cylinder E being cloſed, and the rod L, which is ſmooth and poliſhed, being admitted through a perforation, which is wadded ſo as to be air-tight. The aſcent of the piſton is obtained by letting the ſteam out of the cylinder into a veſſel at a conſiderable diſtance, where it meets with, and is condenſed by a jet of cold water; while a vacuum is conſtantly maintained in the lower part of the cylinder by the action of the pump that carries off the injection water. The force of ſteam employed in this engine is uſually equal to one atmoſphere and a quarter, and the whole apparatus is regularly worked by the principal lever I K. The advantages of this conſtruction are, that by increaſing the force of the ſteam the power of the engine may be increaſed, without enlarging the diameter of the cylinder; and a leſs expence of ſteam is required on account of the condenſation being performed at a diſtance from the cylinder, which is not therefore cooled by the injection of the cold water. This laſt circumſtance renders the engine capable of making a greater number of ſtrokes in a minute with a much leſs expence of fuel than the old engine. In ſome of the lateſt improved engines the action of the ſteam is rendered equal on the lever, by adapting the figure of the arch at its extremity, ſo that the lever is in effect rendered longer, towards the end of the ſtroke, where the power of the ſteam is weaker.

The elaſticity of the air affords a method of determining the depth of the ſea in places where a line cannot be uſed. Fig. 145. is a machine for this purpoſe. A repreſents a large ball of fir P or other light wood, varniſhed over, to preſerve it from the effects of the water; B is a hollow glaſs veſſel, whoſe contents in ſea-water are exactly known; ſuppoſe, for inſtance, two pounds: its neck C terminates in a ſmall orifice, and is bent downwards, to prevent the eſcape of the included air, when it is immerſed in water. At E is a ſpring-hook, which, if at liberty, would ſtand in the poſition e, but is preſſed through a ſlit in the ſtem at the bottom, and kept to its place by hooking on the weight D. The whole inſtrument thus prepared is ſuffered to ſink in the water. And the conſequence is, that as it ſinks, the preſſure of the water continually increaſing, forces its way into the veſſel, and condenſes the air contained within; but when it arrives at the bottom, the weight D ſtriking firſt, is ſtopped, while the reſt of the apparatus proceeds a little onwards, by reaſon of its acquired velocity. The hook E being thus diſengaged from the weight, flies back, and leaves it intirely, ſo that the ball A is at liberty to riſe again to the ſurface. From the quantity of water contained in B at its emergence, it is eaſy to determine the depth it has deſcended to. For, ſince the denſity of air is as the compreſſing weight, the bulk of the ſame quantity of air under different preſſures, muſt be inverſely as the weight. And experiment ſhews, that the mean weight of the atmoſphere is equal to about 32 feet of ſea-water: therefore, at the depth of 32 feet, the air included in the veſſel C will ſuſtain the preſſure of two atmoſpheres, and conſequently will be condenſed into half its former ſpace; at 64 feet depth it will ſuſtain the preſſure of three atmoſpheres, and be condenſed into one third of its firſt ſpace, and ſo forth. Suppoſe, for example, an empty ball, as above deſcribed, capable of holding two pounds troy of ſea-water, were to deſcend to an unknown depth in the ſea, and at its return was found to contain 1 lb. 11 oz. 18 dwts. of water, it is required to find the depth? Then, as the bulk the air was compreſſed into, when at the bottom of the ſea, which is expreſſed by 2 dwts. Is to the bulk of the air before immerſion, expreſſed by 2 lb. So is the weight of the atmoſphere, by which the air was compreſſed before immerſion, which is expreſſed by 32 feet of water, To the weight by which the air was compreſſed when at the bottom of the ſea, 3840 feet. From which deduct 32 feet for the preſſure of the atmoſphere, and the remainder, 3808 feet, indicates the depth of the ſea.

This method is ſubject to two objections. The firſt is, that probably the ſpecific gravity of the ſea may be different at different depths, and conſequently the preſſures may not be as the depths: the other is, that air in very great condenſations does not ſtrictly follow the ratio of the preſſure, but reſiſts in a greater degree. A careful ſeries of experiments may however indicate the allowances neceſſary to be made on both accounts, and in ſmall depths the inſtrument is ſufficiently accurate on the principle already laid down. If this inſtrument were to be applied to meaſure conſiderable depths, the temperature of the ſubmarine regions would require to be found and allowed for.

R It is a well-known fact, that an empty veſſel, that is to ſay, a veſſel containing air, immerſed in water with the mouth downwards, will not become filled, becauſe the ſpring of the air will prevent the water from entering, as may be eaſily ſeen by the help of a wine-glaſs. The diving-bell is conſtructed on this principle. It conſiſts of a large veſſel, or kind of caſk, ſo loaded with lead as to ſink when empty, with the mouth downwards. In the top is fixed a cock to let out the air, and a ſtrong pane of glaſs to afford light to the divers, who ſit on a circular bench in the inſide. This machine is lowered into the water about twelve feet at a time, and at each pauſe air is ſent down in ſmaller bells to the divers, and by them received into the cavity of the great bell, for the purpoſe of expelling the water that enters as the preſſure condenſes the included air. After it has arrived at the bottom of the ſea, the operators continue by the ſame means to repleniſh the air which becomes foul by breathing, ſuffering the impure air to eſcape by the cock in the upper part, as they receive freſh air by the barrels or ſmall bells; ſo that by this contrivance they can remain under water as long as they pleaſe.

S The air-balloon is of two kinds; the one intended to contain heated air, and the other inflammable air. Hot air occupies more ſpace when colder (54, G), and inflammable air is much lighter at a given temperature than the common air of the atmoſphere. From this it follows, that any maſs of either heated or inflammable air, if at liberty, will aſcend in the atmoſphere with a force of buoyancy equal to the difference between its own weight and the weight of an equal bulk of common air (9, B). If the heated or the inflammable air be included in a bag, and the weight of the bag be leſs than the difference juſt mentioned, the bag will be carried upwards, though with a leſs degree of force, namely, with a force equal to the difference leſſened by the weight of the bag. This is commonly called an air-balloon; which, though its figure is not eſſential to its property of aſcending, we will ſuppoſe to be a globe. If the magnitude of a balloon be increaſed, its power of aſcenſion, or the difference between the weight of the included air and an equal bulk of common air will be augmented in the ſame proportion; that is to ſay, in proportion to the cube of its diameter. But the weight of the covering or bag will not be increaſed in ſo great a proportion. For its thickneſs being ſuppoſed the ſame, it is as the ſurface it covers, or only as the ſquare of the diameter. This circumſtance is the cauſe why balloons cannot be made to aſcend, if under a given magnitude, with cloth or materials of the ſame thickneſs.

v . Fig. 146. repreſents the balloon firſt invented. It conſiſts of an immenſe bag of canvas, or other cloth, painted with a compoſition that may leſſen its ſuſceptibility to take fire. A net covers the upper part of its ſurface, from which proceed ropes that ſuſtain a gallery to carry the adventurers and fuel. The lower part is affixed to the gallery, and open to receive the ſtreams of heated and rarefied air, produced by means of fire maintained in an iron grate, ſuſpended in the middle of the orifice. The firſt inflation of the balloon is effected by means of a fire made in a proper apparatus on the ground, and the attached grate ſerves only to maintain the requiſite degree of rarefaction, by furniſhing a ſupply of heated air in the room of that which is gradually condenſed by cooling. It is aſcertained from experiment, that the rarity of the air in theſe machines depends ſolely on its heat and its property of cooling ſlowly; and it is likewiſe eſtabliſhed with a conſiderable degree of certainty, that the weight of the included air is at a medium, about two thirds of the weight of an equal bulk of the air of the atmoſphere. This balloon is raiſed or lowered while in the atmoſphere, by increaſing or diminiſhing the fire.

v Small balloons of thin paper, raiſed on this principle by the flame of a ſponge, or ball of cotton dipped in ſpirits of wine, have been exhibited in every part of Europe.

w The inflammable air-balloon, fig. 147, is preferable to the other, in the preſent early ſtate of our knowledge. It is uſually formed of thin ſilk varniſhed over. When filled with inflammable air, its tube of communication A is uſually cloſed, ſo that the air is prevented from eſcaping. The adventurers are placed in a car or ſmall veſſel B, attached to the balloon by ſtrings, proceeding from a net that covers its upper part. They carry bags of ſand with them to ſerve as ballaſt, and the end of the tube of communication, as well as a ſtring that by pulling may open a valve in the top of the balloon, are continued down into the car. By thoſe means they have, for a limited time, the power of aſcending or deſcending at pleaſure. For the power of aſcenſion is increaſed by emptying one or more ſand-bags, or diminiſhed by ſuffering the inflammable air to eſcape either by the tube or through the valve. It may be obſerved, that the inflammable air, on account of its greater lightneſs, will not deſcend through the tube of communication, unleſs either by its own expanſion from heat, or by the diminiſhed preſſure of the atmoſphere at great heights, it is made to eſcape while the balloon is fully inflated; but it will iſſue from the upper valve, when open, in all circumſtances whatever.

The inflammable air produced in the large way, by the affuſion of diluted vitriolic acid, or iron ſhavings or turnings, is rather leſs than one fifth of the weight of an equal bulk of atmoſpherical air. It is eſtimated that a cubic inch of iron gives a cubic foot of inflammable air, and the ſtrong vitriolic acid, ſold in London, requires to be diluted by five times its bulk of water, for this experiment.

Y To give at pleaſure a progreſſive motion to air-balloons, in any required direction, is a problem of great importance in this newly diſcovered art of penetrating into the ſuperior regions of the atmoſphere. Many wild and abſurd ſchemes for this purpoſe have been offered to the conſideration of the public; and ſome that have been carried into effect have ſerved only to evince the ignorance or the artful quackery of their projectors. Little however of real value has been yet done towards accompliſhing this purpoſe. The grand difficulty of the attempt conſiſts in the large ſurface of reſiſtance expoſed to the ſurrounding fluid, which has hitherto been ſuch, that the quantity of air required to be diſplaced is ſo great, that the ſtrength of the voyagers cannot diſplace it with any conſiderable velocity; that is to ſay, when they have given a ſmall degree of velocity to the machine, the reſiſtance of the air becomes ſuch, that their whole ſtrength will be employed in over-
Z coming it, inſtead of adding to the velocity. The principal object therefore muſt be, to conſtruct the balloon of ſuch a figure as that it may move through the air without diſplacing any conſiderable quantity of it. As to the application of the ſtrength, it may be done by a variety of methods. It is required that it ſhould be exerted on the air in the oppoſite direction to that intended to be produced

in the balloon, and as no mechaniſm can beſtow or create ſtrength (I. 73, E) the ſimpleſt machine will be the beſt, becauſe the loſs by friction will then be leaſt.

The uſes to which machines of this kind may be applied are numerous, and will eaſily occur to any ingenious perſon. It will probably be long before the experiment will be performed in a ſufficiently cheap way to admit of its being applied to the ordinary purpoſes of travellers. Its uſe on extraordinary occaſions, for the conveyance of intelligence in military operations; for penetrating into places inacceſſible by other means; or, for making philoſophical obſervations on the ſuperior regions of the atmoſphere, are ſufficiently obvious. We cannot, however, boaſt of any addition having been made to the ſtock of atmoſpherical knowledge, though very many aerial voyages have been performed. The probable cauſes of this are, that the balloons have ſeldom aſcended above two miles high; that the novelty and grandeur of the ſcene beheld from a balloon has prevented a ſtrict attention to the phenomena that may have preſented themſelves; and more eſpecially, that moſt of the experiments were performed by ignorant and mercenary imitators, who have been much more deſirous of taking the advantage of the ſurprize and credulity of the vulgar, than of making valuable obſervations, or relating them with fidelity. A

The invention of the heated air-balloon is the undoubted right of the brothers, Meſſrs. Stephen and John Mongolfier, who made the firſt experiment at Avignon in November, 1782. The firſt balloon raiſed in the atmoſphere by means of inflammable air, was conſtructed by public ſubſcription, opened by M. Faujas St. Fond at Paris. Meſſrs. Roberts were appointed to conſtruct the machine, and M. Charles to ſuperintend the work. It was launched from the Champ de Mars Auguſt 27, 1783. The firſt human being that aſcended into the air by means of an air-balloon was M. Pilatre de Rozier. He was afterwards accompanied by M. Girond de Vilette, and afterwards by the Marquis d'Arlandes. The balloon uſed in theſe experiments roſe by heated air, and was conſtructed by John Mongolfier at Paris. It was prevented from eſcaping by ropes. The firſt aerial voyage was performed with the ſame balloon by M. Pilatre de Rozier and the Marquis d'Arlandes, who paſſed over the city of Paris November 21, 1783. The firſt aerial voyage with a balloon filled with inflammable air was made by Meſſrs. Charles and Robert from Paris December 1, 1783. They were carried about twenty-ſeven miles in one hour and three quarters. The great rarity of inflammable air was firſt aſcertained (in 1766) by Mr. Cavendiſh, and the idea of its application to the purpoſe of floating a bag in the atmoſphere was explained by Dr. Black in his lectures next following that period. Several philoſophers made attempts to carry this into effect previous to June 1782, and ſucceeded ſo far as to inflate ſoap-bubbles with inflammable air, which rapidly aſcended to the ceiling of the room. But it is to the philoſophic ſpirit and liberality of our neighbours the French that we are indebted for this experiment being completely performed in the large way, without whoſe encouragement it might probably have long remained nothing more than a happy thought *.

On the 14th of June, 1785, the intrepid and ingenious Pilatre de Rozier fell a victim to the new art in which he was the firſt adventurer. He attempted to croſs the Britiſh channel in company with a gentleman, whoſe name was Romain. His balloon conſiſted of two parts; the upper contained inflammable air, and the lower part was a balloon for heated air. By this ingenious addition it was expected, that a power of aſcending or deſcending at pleaſure, without loſs either of ballaſt or of inflammable air, would have been obtained. When the unfortunate travellers were at the eſtimate height of about ſix thouſand toiſes, the upper balloon took fire near the top, and burſt. The apparatus immediately fell to the ground. Pilatre de Rozier firſt came to the earth: no ſigns of life were perceived in him, but his companion is ſaid to have uttered an exclamation before he expired.

This much lamented event is ſuppoſed to have ariſen either from the electricity of the clouds ſetting fire to the ſtream of inflammable air that

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* For a further account of this ſubject, the Engliſh reader may have recourſe to Cavallo's Hiſtory and Practice of Aeroſtation.

iſſued from the upper valve, or from the inflammable air that eſcaped, forming a train of communication between the upper balloon and the fire beneath, which in its aſcent was continually brought into the place before occupied by the balloon. This laſt opinion is rendered moſt probable, from the agitation and apparent diſtreſs obſerved in the travellers a ſhort time before the cataſtrophe. They had prudently lowered the ſtove before Pilatre de Rozier opened the upper valve. The efflux of inflammable air occaſioned by this laſt manoeuvre was probably the immediate cauſe of their deſtruction *.

CHAP. VI.

OF THE AIR-PUMP, AND ITS USES.

THE air-pump is one of the moſt uſeful of all philoſophical inſtruments, whoſe actions depend on the properties of the air. By the help of this machine, all that has been ſhewn concerning the weight and elaſticity of the air, is demonſtrated in the moſt ſimple and elegant manner. Its conſtruction is as follows: E F G H (fig. 148.) is a ſquare table of wood, A A are two ſtrong barrels or tubes of braſs, firmly retained in their poſition by the piece T T, which is preſſed on them by ſcrews O O, fixed on the tops of the braſs pillars N N. Theſe barrels communicate with a cavity in the lower part

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* See the Courier de l'Europe for July 1, 1785.

D. At the bottom within each barrel is fixed a valve, opening upwards, and in each a piſton works, having a valve likewiſe opening upwards. The piſtons are moved by a cog-wheel in the piece T T, turned by the handle B, and whoſe teeth catch in the racks of the piſtons C C. P Q R is a circular braſs-plate, having near its center the orifice K of a concealed pipe, that communicates with the cavity; in the piece D at V is a ſcrew that cloſes the orifice of another pipe, for the purpoſe of admitting the extertermal air when required. L M is a glaſs-receiver, out of which the air is to be exhauſted. It is placed on the plate P Q R, firſt covered with a wet ſheepſkin, or ſmeared with wax, to prevent the air from inſinuating under the edge of the glaſs.

When the handle B is turned, one of the piſtons is raiſed, and the other depreſſed; a void ſpace is conſequently left between the raiſed piſton and the lower valve in the correſpondent barrel: the air contained in the receiver L M, communicating with the barrel by the orifice K, immediately raiſes the lower valve by its ſpring, and expands into the void ſpace; and thus a part of the air in the receiver is extracted. The handle then being turned the contrary way, raiſes the other piſton, and performs the ſame act in its correſpondent barrel; while, in the mean time, the firſt mentioned piſton being depreſſed, the air, by its ſpring, cloſes the lower valve, and, raiſing the valve in the piſton, makes its eſcape. The motion of the handle being again reverſed, the firſt barrel again exhauſts while the ſecond diſcharges the air in its turn: and thus, during the time the pump is worked, one barrel exhauſts the air from the receiver, while the other diſcharges it through the valve in its piſton.

Hence it is evident, that the vacuum in the receiver of the air-pump can never be perfect; that is, the air can never be entirely exhauſted: for it is the ſpring of the air in the receiver that raiſes the valve, and forces air into the barrel, and the barrel at each exſuction can only take away a certain part of the remaining air, which is in proportion to the quantity before the ſtroke, as the capacity of the barrel is to that of the barrel and receiver added into one ſum.

This, however, is an imperfection that is ſeldom, if ever, of any conſequence in practice, becauſe all air-pumps, at a certain period of the exhauſtion, ceaſe to act, on account of their imperfect conſtruction. For the valves uſually conſiſt of a piece of oiled bladder tied over a hole, ſo that the air is at liberty to paſs by lifting up the bladder, but cannot return again, and there will unavoidably be a ſmall ſpace left between the lower valve and the piſton when down. Now, it will happen, when the air in the receiver is very rare, that its ſpring will not be ſtrong enough to overcome the adheſion of the bladder forming the lower valve, which, conſequently, will remain ſhut, and the exhauſtion cannot proceed. Or, before this period, it may happen, that the air between the valves when the piſton is up may be ſo ſmall as to lie in the ſpace between the two valves when the piſton is down, without being ſufficiently condenſed for its ſpring to overcome the adheſion of the bladder forming the upper valve, and the weight of the atmoſphere that preſſes it: in this caſe the upper valve will remain ſhut, and the exhauſtion cannot proceed. In the beſt air-pumps theſe imperfections are in a great degree removed. For the adheſion of the bladders is much diminiſhed, and the action of the air upon them increaſed, by ſubſtituting a number of large holes of paſſage, inſtead of one ſmaller. By cauſing the rod of the piſton to paſs through a collar of leathers, ſcrewed to the upper part of the barrel, and placing another valve for the paſſage of the extruded air, the preſſure of the atmoſphere is prevented from acting on the piſton, ſo that the whole ſpring of the air between the piſton and lower valve is exerted in overcoming the reſiſtance afforded by the valve of the piſton. There are alſo contrivances for opening a communication between the receiver and the barrel, without depending on the ſpring of the air. One of the beſt of theſe conſiſts in an additional piece that lifts the lower valve when a lever is preſſed with the foot: the lever communicates with the interior piece by means of a rod that paſſes through a collar of leathers at the lower end of the barrel *. The beſt ſort of air-pumps are uſually made with a ſingle barrel.

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* This is the invention of one ——— Haas, a workman in London, who has taken out a patent for it.

F In meaſuring the exhauſtion there are two methods of proceeding. The one ſhews the denſity of the air left in the receiver, without regarding ſuch vapours as may aſſume an elaſtic form in the vacuum: the other exhibits the ſpring of the elaſtic fluid in the receiver, without ſhewing whether it be permanently elaſtic air. The quantity of air is ſhewn by an inſtrument called the pear-gage. It conſiſts of a glaſs-veſſel in the form of a pear, with graduations near its upper end, that denote certain known parts of its bulk. This is included in the receiver, together with a veſſel of mercury, into which its mouth may be occaſionally plunged. When the exhauſtion is made, the pear-gage is plunged into the mercury, and the external air admitted into the receiver. The mercury riſes in the gage, and occupies the whole of its cavity, except a ſpace at top, poſſeſſed by a bubble of air, whoſe magnitude is known from the graduations, and is in proportion to the whole contents of the gage, as the quantity of air in the exhauſted receiver is to an equal volume of the common atmoſpherical air.

G This gage would be accurate for all purpoſes, if it were not that moſt fluid or moiſt ſubſtances aſſume an elaſtic form when the preſſure of the atmoſphere is removed. For this reaſon it ſeldom indicates the elaſticity or actual preſſure of the fluid remaining in the receiver. The barometer gage is uſed for this purpoſe. If a barometer be included beneath a receiver, the mercury will ſtand at the ſame height as in the open air; but when the receiver begins to be exhauſted, the mercury will deſcend, and reſt at a height which is in proportion to its former height as the ſpring of the remaining air is to its original ſpring before the exhauſtion. It is uſual to ſay, the air is as many times rarer than the atmoſphere, as the column it ſuſtains is leſs than the height the mercury ſtands at in a detached barometer. On account of the inconvenience of including a barometer in a receiver, a tube of ſix or eight inches length is filled with mercury, and inverted in the ſame manner as the barometer. This being included, anſwers the ſame purpoſe, with no other difference than that the mercury does not begin to deſcend till about three-fourths of the air is exhauſted. It is called the ſhort barometer gage. Others place a tube, of a greater length than the barometer, with its lower end in a veſſel of mercury, while its upper end communicates with the receiver. Here the mercury riſes as the exhauſtion proceeds, and the preſſure of the remaining air is ſhewn by the difference between its height and that of the barometer. This is called the long barometer gage.

Theſe gages are not often conſtructed ſo as to H anſwer the purpoſe of ſhewing the degree of exhauſtion to a great degree. For the mercury, though at firſt boiled, to clear it of the air and moiſture that adhere to it, and render it ſenſibly lighter, gradually becomes again contaminated by expoſure to the air in the baſon of either gage. They cannot therefore with ſtrictneſs be compared with a good barometer in which this does not happen. If the tubes of the gages be leſs than half an inch in diameter, the mercury will be ſenſibly repelled downwards, ſo as to require a correction for the long gage when compared with a barometer, whoſe tube is of a different bore, and to render the ſhort gage uſeleſs in great exhauſtions. Thus, for example, if the ſhort gage have a tube of one-tenth of an inch in diameter, the mercury will fall to the level of the baſon when the exhauſtion is 150 times, and will ſtand below the level for all greater degrees of rarefaction. Theſe difficulties may all be removed, by making the ſhort gage in the form of an inverted ſyphon, with one leg open, and the other hermetically ſealed. It muſt be confeſſed, however, that it is not eaſy to boil the mercury in theſe; and the method of doing it with ſucceſs cannot, with ſufficient conciſeneſs, be deſcribed here.

i Few air-pumps exhauſt to ſo great a degree as one thouſand times by the barometer gage; but the pear-gage in ſome circumſtances will indicate an exhauſtion of many thouſand times.

k Several of the uſes of the air-pump have already been mentioned. The weight of the air is ſhewn by exhauſting it out of a bottle (30, x) and its preſſure is proved to be the cauſe of the aſcent of the mercury in the barometer, becauſe in the vacuum it is no longer ſuſtained. It will be proper to ſubjoin a few more inſtances.

If a ſquare bottle, in whoſe neck is fixed a valve, opening outwards, be placed under the receiver, and the air exhauſted, the bottle will be cruſhed to pieces by the weight of the atmoſphere when the air is permitted to return into the receiver. For the air is prevented from entering the bottle by the valve, which, before the exhauſtion, ſuſtained the preſſure of the atmoſphere on its external ſurface, by means of the ſpring of the included air acting equally on the internal ſurface; but in this experiment, being deprived of its internal air, it is incapable of bearing the weight of the atmoſphere which preſſes it on all ſides. If the bottle were round inſtead of ſquare it would ſuſtain the preſſure, notwithſtanding the exhauſtion, by reaſon of its arched figure, that would prevent its giving way inwards. L

The quantity of this preſſure on a given ſurface is equal to the weight of a column of mercury, whoſe baſe is the given ſurface, and whoſe height is the height of the mercury in the barometer. (32, B) To exemplify and prove this by the air-pump, it is uſual to incloſe in the receiver two braſs hemiſpheres, as A and B, (fig. 149.) that ſhut together like a box, and at the place of ſhutting are lined with wetted leather. The air being exhauſted from the receiver, eſcapes likewiſe from the cavity of the hemiſpheres, and when it is permitted again to enter the receiver, the hemiſpheres are ſo cloſely preſſed together, that the air cannot enter at the place of junction: they adhere toge- M ther therefore, with a force equal to the preſſure of the atmoſphere, which is greater or leſs in proportion to the area of the circle at the place of junction. Thus, if the diameter of the circle where the hemiſpheres are joined be four inches, the force required to ſeparate them muſt exceed 230 lb. troy.

N Since bodies immerſed in fluids loſe parts of their weights, which are equal to the weights of maſſes of the fluids reſpectively equal in bulk to the bodies themſelves (8, Z, A), it follows that bodies of different ſpecific gravities, which are in equilibrio in the air, will not remain ſo in vacuo. For in vacuo each body will re-acquire the weight they loſe while in the air, and the body, whoſe bulk is greateſt, will acquire the greateſt weight. Thus, if a piece of cork be in equilibrio with a piece of lead, when weighed by fine ſcales in the air, the cork will preponderate in vacuo; the removal of the air adding proportionally more to its weight, as its bulk exceeds that of the lead.

O The ſpring of the air may likewiſe be ſhewn in a variety of manners by the aſſiſtance of the air-pump. Suppoſe a ſmall tube to be inſerted through the cork of a bottle, half full of mercury, ſo that the communication between the air included in the upper part of the bottle and the external air ſhall be entirely cut off, the end of the tube being immerſed in the mercury. Let this apparatus b placed under the receiver, and the air exhauſted. The ſpring of the included air then preſſing on the

ſurface

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ſurface of the mercury, will force it into the tube, and ſuſtain it at the ſame height nearly as it ſtands in the barometer; for the ſpring of the air is equal to its weight, (I. 22, R) and conſequently produces an equal effect: but on account of the imperfection of the vacuum, and the expanſion of the air in the bottle, by which its ſpring is weakened, the mercury does not riſe exactly as high as it does in the barometer.

P If a half blown bladder be placed in the receiver, the included air will expand as the exhauſtion proceeds, and will blow it up even to burſting. And if this bladder be incloſed in a box, whoſe cover is loaded with weights ſomewhat leſs than equal to that of the atmoſphere, the expanſion will raiſe the cover and ſuſtain the weights. Thus, if the bladder be incloſed in a box of 6 inches diameter, it will raiſe the cover, though loaded with upwards of 500 lb, troy (32, B.)

Q The ſpring of the air included in the larger pores or veſſels of bodies, is the foundation of a number of pleaſing and inſtructive experiments. Thus it is found, that wood is ſpecifically lighter than water, only by reaſon of the ſpring of the air included in its veſſels, that prevents the water from entering: for when this air is extracted, and the water, by the admiſſion of the external air into the receiver, is impelled into the veſſels of the wood, it is always found to ſink to the bottom.

R The refractive power of the air is alſo ſhewn by the air-pump. For if the air be exhauſted out of a priſmatic a priſmatic glaſs-veſſel, the rays of light will not paſs ſtrait through its ſides, but, in paſſing through the vacuum, will be deflected according to the eſtabliſhed laws of optics. The proportions of the ſines of the angles of incidence and refraction, out of the vacuum into the air, are by this means found to be as 100036 to 100000, which is nearly the ſame ratio as is deduced from the refractions of the heavenly bodies.

s It is likewiſe proved by the air-pump, that the air is the medium of ſound. A bell or ſmall alarm clock, being rung in the exhauſted receiver, gives no ſound, but if the air be admitted, the ſound gradually becomes louder and louder, till the air in the receiver be of the ſame denſity with that of the atmoſphere, at which time the ſound is no otherwiſe weakened than on account of the receiver that covers the bell.

T The reſiſtance of the air is exhibited in a ſtriking manner by the help of the air-pump; for, if a guinea and a feather be let fall together from the top of a tall exhauſted receiver, they both arrive at the bottom at the ſame inſtant.

U Among the very numerous inſtances of the uſefulneſs of this inſtrument, we ſhall mention but two more; namely, the diſcovery of the abſolute neceſſity of air for the preſervation of life in moſt animals, and for the production and continuance of flame. Moſt animals, when included in the exhauſted receiver, are obſerved to die in about five minutes, though the time is various in different ſpecies; and they moſtly recover again, if the air be again admitted without being withheld too long. A lighted candle, placed under the receiver, is extinguiſhed at the beginning of the rarefaction, and the ſmoke hovers about the top of the receiver; but when the air is ſtill more rarefied, it becomes ſpecifically heavier, and ſubſides to the bottom.

BOOK

BOOK III.

SECT. I.

Of Chemiſtry.

CHAP. I.

CONCERNING HEAT.

EVERY change that can take place in bodies is effected by means of motion. The buſineſs of natural philoſophy is to inveſtigate the cauſes of the ſeveral motions, and the laws they follow. In many inſtances theſe motions come under the inſpection of our ſenſes, but for the moſt part they are performed among the minute parts of bodies, and are only known by the effects they produce. The foregoing part of this work has been chiefly confined to the explanation of the former kind of motions, which may be denoted by the general term mechanics. The latter, namely, the effects produced by motions among bodies too minute to affect the ſenſes individually, are the object of a ſcience called chemiſtry.

Heat is one of the moſt important and general cauſes of change in bodies. This term is commonly uſed to denote as well the ſenſation cauſed by an increaſe of temperature in the human body as the ſtate in which inanimate bodies are when their temperature is increaſed. In the following pages, however, it will not be neceſſary to attend to the ſenſation. The word temperature will be uſed to denote the ſtate of a given ſolid, fluid, or vaporous body, with reſpect to heat; and the word heat will be uſed to denote the cauſe of that ſtate.

A body is ſaid to be hot or cold accordingly as its temperature is above or below a given ſtandard. The vulgar make uſe of the temperature of the human body as a ſtandard for this purpoſe. But this is by no means accurate enough for philoſophical purpoſes, becauſe the ſenſations of no two perſons agree, nor even thoſe of the ſame perſon at different times. W

The dimenſions of a body are always increaſed with the temperature, ſo long as the body retains the ſtate of ſolidity, fluidity, or vapour, it happens to poſſeſs, and has ſuffered no change either in the combination or quantity of its chemical principles. This is the chief, and, perhaps, the only general criterion by which the changes of temperature can be appreciated. X

Bodies in contact, or that communicate with each other, will all acquire one and the ſame temperature, after a certain length of time, however different their reſpective original temperatures may have been. Y

There are two opinions concerning heat. According to one opinion, heat conſiſts in a vibratory mo- Z tion of the parts of bodies among each other, whoſe greater or leſs intenſity occaſions the increaſe or diminution of temperature: according to the other opinion, heat is a ſubtile fluid that eaſily pervades the pores of all bodies, cauſing them to expand by means of its elaſticity, or otherwiſe. Each of theſe opinions is attended with its peculiar difficulties. The phenomena of heat may be accounted for by either of them, provided certain ſuppoſitions be allowed to each reſpectively; but the want of proof of the truth of ſuch ſuppoſitions renders it very difficult, if not impoſſible, to decide, as yet, whether heat conſiſts merely in motion or in ſome peculiar matter.

A The word quantity applied to heat will therefore denote either motion or matter, according to the opinion made uſe of, and may be uſed indefinitely without determining which.

B Whatever heat may be, it is certainly lawful to
affirm, that when the temperatures are the ſame,
the quantities of heat are equal in equal bodies of
the ſame kind; thus, a pound of gold contains an
equal quantity of heat with another pound of gold
at the ſame temperature; a pound of water contains
an equal quantity of heat with another pound of
water at the ſame temperature, &c. Hence it
follows, that the quantity of heat in two pounds
of a given ſubſtance is twice as much as is contained
C in one pound at the ſame temperature; and uni-
verſally in homogeneous bodies of the ſame kind,
the quantities of heat will be as the maſſes, provided
the temperatures be the ſame.

If two bodies that differ only in temperature be brought into contact, they will (113, Y) acquire a common temperature, and the quantity of heat in each will be equal (114, B.) It is therefore ſeen, that the hotter body has imparted half its ſurplus of heat to the other; and conſequently the quantity of heat in one of the two bodies will be an arithmetical mean between the quantities originally contained in them. D E

If two bodies of the ſame kind that differ in magnitude and temperature be brought into contact, they will (113, Y) acquire a common temperature, and the quantity of heat in each will be (114, C) in proportion to the maſſes: that is to ſay, the quantity of heat which cauſed one of the two bodies to be hotter than the other will be divided between them in proportion to their maſſes. F G

The quantities of heat required to be imparted to, or ſubducted from, bodies of the ſame kind, in order to bring their temperature to any given ſtandard, will conſequently be as their maſſes. H

On theſe conſiderations it is that the thermometer is preſumed to acquire the ſame temperature as the body it touches. For the maſs of the thermometer ought to be very ſmall in proportion to that of the body it is applied to; in which caſe the quantity of heat it gives out or receives in the acquiſition of the common temperature will be ſo ſmall as not ſenſibly to affect the body under conſideration; ſo that the common temperature may I be taken inſtead of the original temperature required to be found.

K The arithmetical mean temperature between two equal bodies of the ſame kind, as determined by experiment (115, E) will cauſe the mercury in a thermometer to ſtand very nearly at an intermediate equal diſtance between the ſtations it would have had at the original temperatures of the two L bodies. The increments of expanſion in mercury are therefore very nearly as the quantities of heat M that cauſe them. And the quantities of heat added to, or ſubducted from, a given body in contact with a mercurial thermometer, will be expreſſed by the number of degrees the thermometer riſes or falls.

N Thus far the temperature and heat of bodies of the ſame kind have been chiefly conſidered; but if two equal bodies of different kinds and temperature be brought into contact, the common temperature will ſeldom, if ever, be the mean between O the two original temperatures; that is to ſay, the ſurplus of heat in the hotter body will be unequally divided between them, and the proportions of this ſurplus retained by each body will expreſs their reſpective diſpoſitions, affinities or capacities for heat.

P If therefore a given ſubſtance, as for example fluid water, be taken as the ſtandard of compariſon, and its capacity for heat be called one, or unity, the reſpective capacities of their bodies may be determined by experiment, and expreſſed in numbers in the ſame manner as ſpecific gravities uſually are

And becauſe it is eſtabliſhed as well from reaſon as experiment, that the ſame capacity for heat obtains in all temperatures of a given body, ſo long as its ſtate of ſolidity, fluidity, or vapour, is not changed, it will follow, that the whole quantities of heat in equal bodies of a given temperature will be as thoſe capacities. And as the reſpective quantities of matter in bodies of equal volume give the proportions of their ſpecific gravities, ſo the reſpective quantities of heat in bodies of equal weight and temperature give the proportions of their ſpecific heats. Q R

A greater capacity for heat, or greater ſpecific heat in a given body, anſwers the ſame purpoſe with reſpect to temperature as an increaſe of the maſs; or (115, H) the quantity of heat required to be added or ſubducted, in order to bring a body to a given temperature, will be as its capacity or ſpecific heat (117, R.) S

The capacities not only differ in various bodies, but alſo in the ſame body, accordingly as it is either in a ſolid, fluid, or vaporous ſtate. All the experiments hitherto made conſpire to ſhew, that the capacity, and conſequently the ſpecific heat, is greateſt in the vaporous, leſs in the fluid, and leaſt in the ſolid ſtate. T

The quantity of heat that conſtitutes the difference between the ſeveral ſtates may be found in degrees of the thermometer. Thus, if equal quantities of water at 162°, and ice at 32° of temperature, be mixed, the ice melts, and the common U temperature becomes 32°; or otherwiſe, if equal quantities of frozen and of fluid water, both at the temperature of 32°, be placed in a like ſituation to acquire heat from a fire, the water will become heated to 162°, while the ice melts, without acquiring any increaſe of temperature. In either caſe the ice acquires 130° of heat, which produces no other effect than rendering it fluid. Fluid water therefore contains not only as much more heat than ice, as is indicated by the thermometer, but alſo 130°, that is in ſome manner or other employed in giving it fluidity. And as fluid water cannot become ice without parting with 130° of heat, beſides what it had above 32° in its temperature; ſo alſo ſteam cannot become condenſed into water without imparting much more heat to the matters it is cooled by than water at the ſame temperature would have done.

v The heat employed in maintaining the fluid or vaporous form of a body, has been called latent heat, becauſe it does not affect the thermometer.

w From the conſideration of the ſpecific heats of the ſame body in the two ſtates of ſolidity and fluidity, and the difference between thoſe ſpecific heats is deduced a method of finding the number of degrees which denote the temperature of any body immediately after congelation, reckoned from the natural zero, or abſolute privation of heat. The rule is; multiply the degrees of heat required to reduce any ſolid to a fluid ſtate by the number expreſſing the ſpecific heat of the fluid: divide this product by the difference between the numbers expreſſing the ſpecific heat of the body in each ſtate; the quotient will be the number of degrees of temperature, reckoned from abſolute privation of heat [*].

To give an example of this curious rule, let it be required to determine how many degrees of refrigeration would abſolutely deprive ice of all its heat? The degrees of heat neceſſary to melt ice are 130, and the ſpecific heats of ice and water are as 9 to 10. The number 130, multiplied by 10, produces 1300, and divided by the difference between 9 and 10 quotes 1300: therefore if ice were cooled 1300 degrees below 32°, or to —1268 of Fahrenheit's ſcale, it would retain no more heat.

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[*] This theorem is Mr. Kirwan's, and may be proved thus; let s repreſent the required temperature of the body juſt congealed, l = the number of degrees that expreſs the heat required to reduce it to fluidity, n = the ſpecific heat of the ſolid, and m = the ſpecific heat of the fluid. Then, $s + l : s :: m : n$. Whence $s = \frac{l n}{m - n}$ = the temperature from the natural zero in thermometrical degrees of the fluid (117, v.) But becauſe the actual fall of the thermometer is to be produced by cooling the ſolid, we muſt pay attention to its capacity (117, s.) The quantity of heat required to produce a given change of temperature in a body is as its capacity, and conſequently the changes of temperature, when the quantity of heat is given, will be inverſely as the capacities: therefore $n : m :: \frac{l n}{m - n} : \frac{l m}{m - n} = s$. Which is the rule given in the text.

If the data l, m, and n, be accurately obtained by experiment in any one inſtance, and the difference between the zero of Fahrenheit's ſcale and the natural zero be thence found in degrees of that ſcale, this difference will ſerve to reduce all temperatures to the numeration which commences at the natural 0: So that s being known in all caſes, if any two of the quantities l, m, or n, be given in any body, the other may be likewiſe had. For $l = \frac{s m - s n}{m}$. And $m = \frac{s n}{s - l}$. And $n = \frac{s m - l m}{s}$.

z It is unneceſſary to point out the many phyſical cauſes that prevent either the production or menſuration of this ultimate degree of cold.

A Experiments on heat may be made by mixing fluid bodies; by placing them in a vaſe, whoſe temperature, volume, and ſpecific heat or capacity are known; or by placing them in contact with ice at 32°; in which laſt caſe, the quantity of ice melted by a body hotter than 32° will be in proportion to the quantity of abſolute heat that cauſes this difference of temperature.

B Much care is required to prevent occaſional circumſtances from influencing the reſults of theſe experiments. The maſſes, ſpecific heats and temperatures of the veſſel and thermometer made uſe of, as well as the temperature of the ſurrounding atmoſphere, muſt be attended to. The thermometers muſt be very ſenſible, and give the temperature to tenths of degrees. The temperature of the mixture muſt be taken in various parts of the veſſel, and its rate of cooling aſcertained at different periods, in order to infer the common temperature that would have taken place if the ſurplus of heat could have been equally diffuſed at the firſt inſtant of the mixture. When the melting of ice is made uſe of, it is neceſſary that the ice expoſed to the contact of the heated body ſhould be defended from the action of the external air, by being included in a veſſel ſurrounded on all ſides with other ice at 32°, and the temperature of the room ought not to be much colder than 32°, leſt the melted ice ſhould be again frozen, inſtead of running into the veſſel prepared to receive it.

The chief advantage which the opinion that heat is cauſed by mere vibration poſſeſſes, is its great ſimplicity. It is highly probable that all heated bodies have an inteſtine motion or vibration of their parts; and it is certain that percuſſion, friction, and other methods of agitating the minute parts of bodies will likewiſe increaſe their temperature. Why, then, it is demanded, ſhould we multiply cauſes, by ſuppoſing the exiſtence of an unknown fluid, when the mere vibration of parts, which is known to obtain, may be applied to explain the phenomena? To this it is anſwered, that mere motion will not apply to the phenomena: for, among other facts, water at 32° contains more heat than ice at 32°, and ought therefore to poſſeſs more vibration, yet it does not communicate more to the thermometer. A part of its motion muſt conſequently be latent or incommunicable, which is an abſurdity. C D

A happy explanation of the manner in which the temperature of a body is raiſed by friction or percuſſion, has been given * on the ſuppoſition that heat is matter. If the parts of a body containing any fluid E

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* By Mr. Kirwan.

fluid be made to vibrate ſtrongly and irregularly; they will expel a part of the fluid out of the pores, provided the fluid be not ſufficiently compreſſed to move in correſpondence with the vibrations. For in this caſe a vibrating particle may be conſidered as if its dimenſions were increaſed, which is in effect the ſame thing as if the pores of the body were diminiſhed. The capacity of the body will thus be diminiſhed, and conſequently its temperature will be increaſed (117, S.)

F All the changes of temperature from the moſt intenſe cold to the utmoſt violence of ignition may be explained from the changes the capacities of bodies, and conſequently their ſpecific heats G undergo in the ſeveral chemical proceſſes. For univerſally, whenever the capacities of bodies are diminiſhed, either by melting or evaporating, (117, T) by friction or percuſſion, (121, E) or by a change in the chemical combination, then the temperature is increaſed (117, S.) And on the contrary, the temperature is diminiſhed, or bodies become cold whenever their capacities for heat are increaſed.

H Thus, in the ſolution of various ſaline bodies in water, cold is produced; becauſe the capacity of the ſalt being increaſed (117, T) by its becoming fluid, while the abſolute quantity of heat remains the ſame, its temperature muſt be diminiſhed, (117, S.) Conſequently, the common temperature of the melted ſalt and water muſt be lower than it would have been if the ſalt had not been diſſolved (113, Y.)

For the ſame reaſon a mixture of ſnow and ſalt, I applied at the outſide of a veſſel containing water, produces a degree of cold that congeals the water, or would cauſe a thermometer to fall far beyond the freezing point. The ſnow and ſalt are rendered fluid by their mutual action on each other; their capacities for heat are increaſed, their temperatures conſequently diminiſhed, and the water frozen by the loſs of the heat it imparts to produce a common temperature.

So likewiſe, if a ſmall glaſs veſſel, containing K water, be conſtantly wetted on the outſide with ether, the quick evaporation of this laſt fluid will produce a degree of cold that will in a very ſhort time freeze the included water. For the ſpecific heat of the ether, when converted into vapor, is ſo great, that its temperature becomes very low, and cools the water even below freezing.

The inſtances of cold produced by evaporation L are exceedingly numerous. From this cauſe it is that water is commonly about 2 degrees colder than the ſurrounding air; that damp clothes produce ſuch chilling effects; that a wet hand, even though wetted with warm water, ſoon becomes colder than the other that remains dry, &c., &c.

The ſpecific heat of atmoſpherical air is found M by experiment to be conſiderably greater than that of air which is expired from the lungs of an animal. The air therefore undergoes a change in the lungs, which diminiſhes its capacity and muſt conſequently increaſe its temperature. It is found alſo, that the capacity of blood for heat is diminiſhed in its courſe from the arteries to the veins. From theſe cauſes the temperature of the animal is continually increaſed. But the evaporation of perſpirable matter increaſes with the temperature, and produces cold. The equilibrium of theſe actions appears to be the reaſon why the temperature of any one ſpecies of animal is nearly the ſame in all climates. Animals that have no lungs are of the ſame temperature as the ſurrounding medium. In cold countries the effects of perſpiration, and the contact of the circumambient air are rendered leſs by the clothing, as thick fur, hair, &c. that envelope the native animals, and are from neceſſity made uſe of by the human ſpecies.

N The ſpecific heat of combuſtible matter is not conſiderable; the ſpecific heat of atmoſpheric air is much greater than that of air which has ſerved the purpoſe of combuſtion. Suppoſe now that by any means the temperature of a combuſtible ſubſtance be raiſed to ſuch a degree as that the chemical proceſs, which changes the capacity of the air, may go on, the temperature of the air will be raiſed in proportion as its capacity is diminiſhed, its heat will be imparted to, and ſtill more increaſe the temperature of the combuſtible body. A very high degree of temperature will be produced, which will be greater in proportion to the ſpecific heat of the air, the quantity decompoſed in a given time, and leſs in proportion to the facility with which it is conducted away by other bodies. This proceſs is called combuſtion, when it is carried on with ſuch rapidity as to cauſe the body to emit light, at which time it is ſaid to be ignited; and it will continue till the principles of the body are ſo changed or diſſipated as that it can no longer make any change in the capacity of the ſurrounding air.

The friction of one piece of wood againſt another, in a turner's lathe, produces heat and flame. A nail may be hammered till it becomes red hot. When flint and ſteel are ſtruck together, minute portions of the ſteel are knocked off, in ſo high a degree of heat, that they are actually burned, and upon extinction are ſeen, with the magnifier, to conſiſt moſtly of hollow balls of a black or greyiſh metallic colour, and about the one hundredth of an inch in diameter. When the ſun's rays are thrown, by a burning-glaſs or mirror (I. 325, N), on any ſubſtance, they exceedingly increaſe its temperature, and produce the moſt aſtoniſhing effects. In all theſe phenomena the temperature ſeems to be raiſed, at leaſt in the beginning, by the diminution of capacity, which is a conſequence of the agitation of the minute parts of bodies. o

When water, or any fluid, is heated, the quantity evaporated in a given time becomes greater, becauſe the heat which the greater capacity of ſteam demands is more readily ſupplied. The greater evaporation diminiſhes the augmentation of temperature the fluid acquires, and at a certain period entirely deſtroys it. This period or tempera- p ture, called the boiling point, is lower, the more eaſily evaporable the fluid, and will vary in the ſame fluid, accordingly as the evaporation is more or leſs eaſily performed. Thus ſpirit of wine boils at 180°, water at 212°; mercury at 600, and other liquids at other points reſpectively, at which they acquire the greateſt heat they are capable of ſuſtaining without being converted into vapor in the open air of a mean denſity. But if the evaporation be impeded, either by the fluid being included in a cloſed veſſel, or by the increaſed preſſure of a denſer atmoſphere, the fluid will acquire a higher temperature; and, on the contrary, if the atmoſphere be light, or the fluid heated in vacuo, the boiling temperature will be lower *.

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* The theory of heat, as here explained, is due to the immortal Dr. Black, and has been improved and illuſtrated by Dr. A. Crawford, Dr. Irvine, Mr. Kirwan, Profeſſor Wilke, Mr. Watt, Mr. Magellan, &c.

CHAP. II.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE METHODS OF APPLYING HEAT TO CHEMICAL PURPOSES.

THERE are few ſubſtances found in a natural ſtate whoſe conſtituent parts cannot be ſeparated from each other by the methods uſed in chemiſtry. One of the principal methods conſiſts in altering the temperature of bodies.

A great number of bodies are found to be capable of the ſolid, the fluid, and the vaporous or highly elaſtic form, accordingly as they contain leſs or more heat. The temperature at which ſolids become fluid is exceedingly various in different ſubſtances, as is likewiſe the temperature at which the internal parts of fluids begin to take a vaporous form, and eſcape with ebullition. The number of degrees of temperature comprehended between theſe two points of freezing and boiling is not governed by any relation yet diſcovered between theſe phenomena and the other properties of bodies. Thus mercury freezes at 49° below 0, and boils at 600°; the interval being 649°; water freezes at 32°, and boils at 212°, the interval being 180°; ſpirit of wine freezes at 52° below 0, and boils at 180°, the interval being 232°. It is probable that all bodies whatſoever are capable of the three ſtates of ſolidity, fluidity, and vapor; but that in many inſtances the freezing or boiling points may lie at temperatures not obtainable by any means in our power.

Bodies that aſſume the vaporous ſtate at a lower temperature are called volatile, when compared with ſuch as require a greater degree of heat for the ſame purpoſe. Such bodies as either cannot be made to riſe in vapor, or require an intenſe heat to raiſe them, are called fixed.

It is eaſy to conceive how the parts of bodies may be ſeparated from each other by change of temperature. Thus, if ſoap be diſſolved in ſpirits of wine, and the temperature be rendered lower, the ſoap will aſſume a concrete form, and be ſeparated long before the fluidity of the ſpirits can be affected. Water mixed with ſpirits is converted into ice by cold, and ſeparated for the ſame reaſon. Again, if a mixture of copper and lead be expoſed to a heat gradually increaſed, the lead will be melted firſt, and will run from the copper, leaving it in the form of a porous maſs: or if braſs, which is a mixture of copper and a volatile ſemi-metal called zink, be expoſed to a conſiderable heat, the zink aſſumes the vaporous ſtate, and leaves the copper alone. So likewiſe quickſilver is ſeparated from gold, water from clay, &c.

The purpoſes of chemiſtry are in general much better anſwered by raiſing than by lowering the temperature of bodies. The moſt uſual method of heating bodies is, to place them in communication with others in a ſtate of combuſtion; that is to ſay, place them near a fire. The veſſels and furnaces made uſe of are various, according to their ſeveral applications.

When ſubſtances of conſiderable fixity are to be expoſed to heat, or when the volatile parts of bodies are propoſed to be diſſipated into the air, open veſſels are uſed. The common culinary utenſils of copper or iron anſwer theſe intentions where the matter to be operated upon will not corrode them, and the heat is not required to be very great. Glaſs veſſels are the moſt cleanly, and may be uſed in a great variety of proceſſes. They have the advantage of reſiſting the action of moſt corroding matters, are impermeable to air and vapor, and their tranſparency affords the valuable convenience of beholding the changes that happen within them. In higher degrees of heat, ſuch as would ſoften or melt glaſs, it is neceſſary to uſe veſſels of earth, or other matter. w

A mattras, is a kind of bottle ſhaped moſt commonly like a Florence flaſk, though its figure is various, according to the uſes it is intended to be applied to, fig. 150, letter c. A cucurbit, is a veſſel nearly of the ſame figure, but with a long neck, fig. 150, letter A. It is made either of metal, glaſs, or earthen-ware. A crucible, is a pot made uſe of for melting metal and other ſimilar purpoſes. It is made either of platina*, forged iron, black lead, x

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* Mr. Achard's proceſs for making crucibles of platina is as follows. Take equal quantities of platina, white arſenic

or earth. A cupel, is a ſhallow crucible, made of calcined bones, and uſed by aſſayers. The large crucibles of this kind, uſed by refiners, are called teſts.

Y In moſt operations where the volatile parts of bodies are propoſed to be ſeparated and preſerved, it is neceſſary to uſe cloſed veſſels. To the cucurbit A, fig. 150, is adapted the head B, denoted by the dotted line: from the head proceeds a tube that communicates with the mattras C, which in this caſe is called the receiver. The head B is incloſed within a tub or veſſel, called the refrigeratory. The whole apparatus thus diſpoſed is called an alembic or ſtill. The matter to be operated on is put into the cucurbit A, and the head fitted on: cold water is poured into the refrigerator; and the receiver adapted to the tube, by means of an earthy paſte, called lute. The fire being then lighted, forces the volatile fumes into the head B, where they become condenſed by the cold, and flow in a liquid form into the receiver C. This proceſs is called diſtillation.

Z When diſtillation is performed in the large way, a very large tub or veſſel is ſubſtituted inſtead of the

and ſalt of tartar, and expoſe them to a ſtrong heat, till they melt. This matter, when cooled, muſt be reduced to powder, with which the mould of the veſſel intended to be formed muſt be filled. A ſtrong heat quickly raiſed, under a muffle, and continued for ſome time, will again fuſe the maſs: the arſenic and ſalt of tartar will be forced off, and the platina will be left alone in the form deſired.

the refrigerator, and the vapors paſs through a ſpiral pipe called the worm. Thus fig. 151, A is the body of the ſtill, B the head, D the worm-tub containing cold water, and the dotted lines repreſent the pipe called the worm, terminating at E, where the condenſed vapors run out in a liquid form.

A But there are many matters required to be diſtilled that are not ſufficiently volatile to paſs into the receiver by either of theſe methods. In ſuch caſes the refrigerating part is omitted, and the cucurbit is made with its neck on one ſide, as in fig. 152. It is then called a retort, and the receiver is uſually luted to the neck. Moſt of the experiments made in the ſmall way may be performed with retorts, if attention be paid to apply more or leſs heat, according to the volatility of the products expected to come over.

B When volatile ſubſtances are raiſed by heat in a dry form, the proceſs is called ſublimation. If the ſublimed maſs has a looſe powdery form, it is called flowers. Such are the flowers of brimſtone, of benjamin, &c. An ordinary cucurbit, or mattras, will ſerve for the ſublimation of ſuch bodies as are not very volatile. When they are more volatile, the head B of the alembic is a proper receptacle, fig. 150, eſpecially if moiſt products ariſe and are required to paſs at the ſame time into the receiver C. In other caſes the receiver is not annexed, and a number of heads are fixed one above the other communicating by necks, the uppermoſt one only being cloſed at top. Many ſublimates are attached to the chimnies of furnaces, among which common ſoot is a familiar inſtance.

c The conſtruction of furnaces is as various as the purpoſes they are deſigned to ſerve. A lamp, ſupported at different diſtances below any chemical veſſel, or burning with a variable number of wicks, is very uſeful where low degrees of heat are intended to be applied. Chemical veſſels may be plunged to greater or leſs depths in a pot over the fire containing either water, mercury, a mixture of mercury and lead, ſand, iron filings, or other matter capable of ſuſtaining heat. Theſe ſubſtances, interpoſed between the veſſel and the fire, compoſe what is called a bath, and are of excellent uſe for imparting an uniform heat, not ſubject to the ſudden viciſſitudes experienced by veſſels expoſed to a naked fire. Without this contrivance glaſs veſſels would often fly or crack. Glaſs or earthen veſſels, intended to ſuſtain a greater heat than can be given by means of a bath, are uſually* coated with a mixture conſiſting chiefly of clay and ſand.

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* The valuable method, uſed by Mr. Willis, of Wapping, to ſecure or repair his retorts uſed in the diſtillation of phoſphorus, deſerves to be mentioned here. The retorts are ſmeared with a ſolution of borax, to which ſome ſlaked lime has been added, and when dry, they are again ſmeared with a thin paſte of ſlaked lime and linſeed oil. This paſte being made ſomewhat thicker, is applied with ſucceſs during the diſtillation, to mend ſuch retorts as crack by the fire.

D Fig. 153. repreſents the wind-furnace, or air melting furnace. In this ſection A denotes the aſh-hole, B the grate, C a crucible placed on the grate, F a ſtone covering the upper part of the fire-place, G the ſide-communication between the fire and the chimney E H. D is a cupel occaſionally placed in the current of flame that iſſues from the fire. The fuel and pots are introduced at the hole F. The effects of this furnace are eaſily explained. Combuſtion (124, N) is more rapid and intenſe in proportion to the quantity of air ſupplied and decompoſed. The preſſure of the atmoſphere upwards at B is greater than the preſſure of the column that acts downwards, becauſe the lower part of this laſt mentioned column conſiſts of a rarefied portion of air included in the cavity D C G E H. The lighter column will therefore aſcend with a velocity ſo much the greater as its rarefied part is longer and more rarefied. If therefore the fire be large, and the chimney high and ſufficiently narrow for the air to paſs through before it is much cooled, a very powerful degree of heat will be produced.

E Fig. 154. repreſents the reverberatory furnace. By means of the dome B the flames are driven back, and made to play round the retort C; and occaſionally the fuel may be heaped round the retort, ſo as nearly to fill the dome.

F There are many other furnaces, for the making of glaſs, the roaſting of ores, and extracting their contents, the firing of pottery, and other numerous purpoſes. For the deſcription and uſe of theſe, larger treatiſes muſt be recurred to. The philoſophical chemiſt may in general perform his operations without being under the abſolute neceſſity of uſing furnaces conſtructed on purpoſe, or preparing any larger apparatus of veſſels. A tobacco-pipe is a very uſeful kind of crucible, with which many experiments may be well made in a common fire, eſpecially with the aſſiſtance of a pair of double bellows. Common chafing-diſhes, ſmall iron ſtoves, or the larger kind of * black lead pots may be applied to purpoſes of the moſt extenſive utility by an ingenious operator. Bottles of various ſhapes, and other veſſels, may be found in common uſe well ſuited to the performance of chemical experiments: ſuch are apothecaries phials, Florence flaſks, earthen pans, &c.

G The blow-pipe is an inſtrument of great uſe in the chemical examination of mineral bodies. This may be procured in the ſhops, and conſiſts of a tube of about ten inches long, formed as in the figure, (fig. 155.) The aperture A is about a quarter of an inch in diameter, and is intended to be applied to the mouth in blowing: the other aperture B is very ſmall, ſo that the wind iſſues out in a fine ſtream. If now a candle be ſnuffed, and the wick turned a little on one ſide, the flame may, by this ſtream of air, be directed upon any ſmall body,

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* The method of conſtructing cheap and portable furnaces out of black lead pots, is deſcribed at large in "Lewis's "Philoſophical Commerce of Arts."

body, and is ſufficiently active to produce every change that the ſtrongeſt furnace can effect on larger bodies.

H The common blow-pipe is ſubject to two principal inconveniences; the firſt is, that the moiſture of the breath becomes condenſed in the tube, and occaſionally ſpirting out of the aperture B, either checks the burning of the flame, or produces other diſagreeable accidents; the other is, that the aperture B being invariable, can only be adapted to a flame of one particular magnitude, whereas a larger flame requires a larger aperture. The blow-pipe beſt ſuited to philoſophical purpoſes is provided with a ball C (fig. 156.) in which the vapors are detained, inſtead of paſſing through the aperture B: and the piece B may be unſcrewed, and changed for another, accordingly as the aperture is required to be varied. If the aperture be not round and ſmooth, the flame will be ragged and irregular.

I The body to be urged by the flame, directed and excited by a blow-pipe, ought not to exceed the ſize of a grain of pepper. The beſt ſupporter to place it on is a ſmooth cloſe piece of charcoal, which anſwers perfectly well for all matters that do not ſink into its pores, nor are changed by its inflammable principle. In ſuch caſes as the charcoal cannot be uſed, it is neceſſary to be provided with a ſmall ſpoon, either of pure gold or pure ſilver, there being no other metals that admit of being worked with facility, but are changeable by heat.

K The advantages attending experiments made with the blow-pipe are many. They may be made in a very ſhort time in any place, by an apparatus that admits of being carried in the pocket. The quantity required of any material is ſo ſmall, that they are performed at very little expence. And the whole proceſs, inſtead of being carried on in an opake crucible, is viſible from beginning to end. They are therefore of great utility in examining bodies where experiments in the large way cannot eaſily or conveniently be made, and where they can, theſe ſmall trials previouſly made are often of ſervice to indicate the beſt way of conducting them *.

L If the blow-pipe be uſed with the pure air, called dephlogiſticated air, obtained by diſtillation from nitre, or other ſalts, it produces a greater degree of heat than can be obtained by any other method yet diſcovered, unleſs we may except the heat in the focus of a few of the moſt capital burning lenſes.

M The burning glaſs or mirror is ſeldom uſed in chemiſtry, except on ſuch occaſions as do not admit of the other methods of heating bodies.

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* The uſe of the blow-pipe is explained by Guſtav von Engeſtrom, in a treatiſe annexed to the Engliſh edition of Cronſtedt's Mineralogy, and alſo by Bergman, in his Treatiſe de tubo ferruminatorio, in which the habitudes of a great number of bodies in the fire, either with or without addition, are given. The Engliſh reader will find this excellent work at the end of Cullen's Tranſlation of Bergman's Eſſays. London. 1784.

UNIV. OF T.

CHAP. III.

AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE AND EFFECTS OF THE ELECTIVE ATTRACTION, OR CHEMICAL AFFINITY.

IT has been ſufficiently ſhewn in the former parts A of this Treatiſe, that the parts of bodies have a tendency towards each other, which is generally denoted by the word Attraction. Were it not for the effects of this power, the motions of all bodies would be performed in right lines (I. 21, P), and their parts would be ſeparated from each other by the ſmalleſt impulſe. It is, in fact, impoſſible to form a notion how the univerſe could ſubſiſt in its preſent form without it.

The firſt rule of philoſophizing (I. 6.) leads us B to enquire whether the various effects of attraction that take place in natural phenomena be conſequences of one and the ſame principle, or, if more cauſes than one ſhould be concerned in producing them, how far the operation of each extends. If the attraction of coheſion were the ſame as gravitation, its power would follow the ſame ratio of the diſtances of bodies from each other (I. 207), and would be ſenſible at very conſiderable intervals of ſpace; but as it is perceived only at extremely C ſmall diſtances, and even gives place to repulſion when the interval is increaſed (I. 47. Z), it ſeems neceſſary to conſider it as a diſtinct property of matter, or, at leaſt, as the effect of ſome other cauſe.

D Whether the attraction of coheſion, or the power that reſiſts the ſeparation, by mechanical means, of the parts of ſolid bodies, be the ſame as thoſe attractions which, on account of their being exerted more ſtrongly between two given bodies, than between one of the two and a third of a different kind, are called elective attractions, or chemical affinities, has not been well decided. The enumeration of a few ſimple propoſitions reſpecting attraction, generally conſidered, may tend much to elucidate this buſineſs.

E As the attraction of gravitation is taken to be a general property of matter, acting according to the maſſes of bodies (I. 18. I; 26, A), and we do not ſuppoſe a variety of attractions, but of denſities, in bodies that are variouſly heavy, ſo may one general property cauſe the particles of bodies to adhere together, though its intenſity, varying with the denſity of thoſe particles, may produce various effects.

F In all the phenomena of attraction, the force is greater when the diſtance is leſs: and it is clear, that particles of the ſame maſs and denſity may have various figures, ſome of which will admit of a nearer approach of their centers, when their ſurfaces
G are in contact, than others. Such particles will adhere more ſtrongly, as by their figure can admit of their centers coming nearer together.

H Againſt the truth of the poſition, that the attractions diſplayed in the coheſion of bodies, and in

chemical operations, follow the denſity of the particles;
it is no objection to ſay, that the hardneſs
and ſpecific gravity of bodies are governed by no
common law: for the hardneſs, according to this I
doctrine, depends on the denſity, magnitude, and
figure of the particles, and the ſpecific gravity on
the denſity of the particles, and the proportion between
their aggregate bulk and the bulk of the
ſpace occupied by the pores of the bodies. And K
as theſe attributes do not depend on each other, but
may vary indefinitely, there is no neceſſary relation
between hardneſs and ſpecific gravity.

The adheſion of like parts, by which a body is L
formed of the ſame kind as the parts themſelves, is
called aggregation; but the adheſion of parts, not
of the ſame kind as each other, by which a body
is formed, having properties different from thoſe
of the parts, is called combination. It does not M
appear that combination is performed by any power
different from the attraction of coheſion, by which
aggregation is allowed to be produced; or, in other
words, the attraction of coheſion, and of chemical
affinity, appear to be the ſame power exerciſed in
different circumſtances.

If a particle of matter be ſurrounded by others of N
a certain kind in contact with it, it may ſtill
attract and retain others, forming a ſecond enveloping
ſtratum, and ſo on, according to the force of
attraction it exerts on ſuch particles. But at a certain
period the accumulation will ceaſe, on account
of the attraction being inconſiderable beyond a
limited

o limited diſtance. At this period, if particles of a third different kind be preſented, they may be attracted and retained by the central particle notwithſtanding, provided its attraction to theſe laſt

p be ſtronger than to the former: and accordingly, as theſe laſt are more weakly or ſtrongly attracted, they will either form an additional ſtratum without, or will be urged inwards, ſo as to diſplace the others by forcing them out of the ſphere of

q attraction. The phenomena will likewiſe be different in conſequence of the greater or leſs force of attraction mutually exerted between the particles of different kinds applied to the central particle.

r A particle ſurrounded by as many of another kind as it can retain, may be conſidered as a ſimple particle with reſpect to ſuch particles of a third kind, as it can attract and retain without diſplacing the former.

s Let a particle be ſuppoſed to be ſurrounded by as many of another kind as it can retain, and alſo by particles of a third kind, enveloping the former; let the attraction of the central particle be ſuppoſed greater in like circumſtances with reſpect to the external kind, than to the kind of particles which are neareſt to it, but ſtronger on theſe laſt, merely on account of their proximity; then, if the whole be heated, the reſpective diſtances of all the particles will be increaſed (113, x); this increaſe may augment the diſtances of the nearer in a higher proportion than of the remote particles, and conſequently cauſe the attractions of the central

particle on each to approach nearer to equality, or
even cauſe attraction on the external ſtratum to
become greateſt; and again, the inner ſtratum
of particles having their interſtices rendered larger,
may admit the outer to paſs through without impe-
diment, and poſſeſs the nearer place: that is to ſay, T
heat may cauſe changes of combination to take place
that would not have obtained at a lower tempe-
rature.

U The ſimpleſt parts that enter into the compoſition of bodies, namely, ſuch parts as have not hitherto been decompoſed by any method of analyſis, or obtained by the combination of other ſimple bodies, are termed elements or firſt principles.

V When a combination of two firſt principles enters into the compoſition of a body, by uniting with ſome other principle or principles, this combination is termed a ſecondary principle of the body it enters into (140, R).

Thus, ſulphur and ſalt of tartar, melted together, form a compound called liver of ſulphur, into which ſulphur, though not a ſimple ſubſtance, enters as a ſecondary principle, and from which it may be again ſeparated, by proper methods, in its original form.

W When principles are combined in ſuch proportions as to form a compound that exhibits the leaſt poſſible any of the diſtinguiſhing properties of the principles, they are ſaid to be ſaturated with each other. If either principle exceed this proportion, it is ſaid to be imperfectly or partially ſaturated, and the other is ſaid to be ſuperſaturated.

For example, if ſpirit of ſalt, or the marine acid, be added to ſalt of ſoda, or the marine alkali; the compound will exhibit acid properties, if the firſt abound beyond a certain proportion; or if the latter predominate, the alkaline properties will prevail; but if each be in due quantity, the compound will be common culinary ſalt, neither acid nor alkaline.

x Mixture is the union of principles, which remain nevertheleſs in conſiderable maſſes that adhere to each other reſpectively, either by reaſon of the ſimilar principles having a greater attraction to each other than to the principles of another kind, or becauſe the heat of the maſs is not ſufficiently great (141, T) to cauſe that change which would produce an intimate combination of the whole.

Oil and water, when ſhaken together, do not combine, but only mix, becauſe the parts of each reſpectively attract thoſe of the ſame kind more ſtrongly than the other: ſo likewiſe pot-aſh and ſand may be mixed without combining, but an increaſe of temperature in the furnace of a glaſs-houſe will cauſe them to unite, and form the combination called glaſs.

Y To produce a change in the combination of the parts of bodies, it is in general required that the temperature of the whole ſhould be ſufficiently high to melt at leaſt one of the principles.

When a fluid combines with another body without loſing its fluidity, this laſt is ſaid to be held in ſolution, or diſſolved, and the fluid is called a ſolvent or menſtruum. Z

A menſtruum ſaturated with one principle may, notwithſtanding, take up another (139, N. 01) A

Thus ſalt may be diſſolved in water, and when it is ſaturated, and will not act on ſalt, it will diſſolve ſugar.

When a fluid that holds one or more principles in ſolution lets one fall upon the addition of ſome new principle to which the combination has a greater affinity, the principle let fall is ſaid to be precipitated by the newly added principle, which is called the precipitant. B

Epſom ſalt conſiſts of magneſia, combined with the marine acid. If this ſalt be diſſolved in water, and ſalt of tartar be added, the magneſia will fall to the bottom in the form of a white powder, and the ſalt of tartar will combine with the acid.

When two principles being united are ſo ſeparated on the addition of a third, that one of the original principles quits the other, and forms a new combination with the third, the decompoſition and new combination are ſaid to be produced by ſimple affinity. C

Common ſalt, as has been already obſerved, is a combination of the marine acid with the marine alkali. If oil of vitriol, or the vitriolic acid be, added, the alkali will quit its acid to unite by ſtronger affinity with the acid laſt added, with which it will form a new ſalt, called Glauber's ſalt, while the marine acid being diſengaged, flies off in an elaſtic form.

D When two compounds, conſiſting each of two principles, are preſented to each other, and the combinations change the order of their principles, becauſe the attractions of one principle of the one to one principle of the other, and of the remaining principle of the one to the remaining principle of the other, are, together, ſtronger than the attractions that tend to preſerve the original form, the two decompoſitions, and two new combinations, are ſaid to be produced by double affinity.

Sal-ammoniac is compoſed of the marine acid, combined with the volatile alkali, or ſalt commonly uſed in ſmelling bottles. If ſal-ammoniac in powder be mixed with ſlaked lime, the marine acid unites with the lime, and the water of the lime joins with the volatile alkali, which riſes immediately in penetrating fumes. This mixture being haſtily put into a retort, the water and volatile alkali come over together, by the aſſiſtance of a gentle heat, in the form of a pungent fluid, called the cauſtic volatile alkali, or, by apothecaries, ſpirit of ſal-ammoniac with quicklime. In this proceſs it is not ſimply the attraction of the marine acid to the quicklime, nor the attraction of the water to the alkali that occaſions the double change of combination, but it is the united force of both attractions; for if dry hot quicklime, that is to ſay, quicklime containing no water, be made uſe of, the ſal-ammoniac is not decompoſed, the ſimple attraction of the marine acid to the quicklime not being ſufficient to overcome the attraction of its component principles.

There are many more compounded effects of the mutual attractions of the parts of bodies in various circumſtances. To interpret theſe is a noble taſk, but not eaſy; for it requires an extenſive acquaintance with facts, a lively imagination, quick and accurate habits of reaſoning, and, above all, a mind free from prejudice. z

Fluids in general diſſolve a greater quantity of any ſubſtance when the temperature is higher; but this is not univerſally true. The cauſe of the general fact ſeems to be, that the fluidity of the matter in ſolution may be better maintained (128, u) at a higher temperature; that in partial ſolutions, where all the principles are not taken up, the heat, by volatilizing ſome principles, may render the ſolution of the reſidue more eaſy: and the reaſon why in ſome caſes leſs is taken up by a fluid at a higher than at a lower temperature is, probably, that the general effect of heat being to oppoſe (113, x) the attractions between bodies may operate more ſtrongly than the other cauſes here taken notice of. r

Thus, for example, if water be made to boil on ſaltpetre, it will diſſolve a conſiderable quantity; but if the clear ſolution be poured into another veſſel, and ſuffered to cool, a great part of the ſalt will ſeparate in a ſolid form. On the contrary, if the acid of nitre, commonly called ſpirit of nitre, be taken of a given ſtrength and moderate temperature, and it be found, by previous experiment with a like quantity of the ſame acid, how much quickſilver it will diſſolve, and this quantity of quickſilver be added to the acid ſo taken, it will of courſe diſappear by gradual ſolution: if then the temperature of the whole be increaſed, a great proportion of the quickſilver will be again let go [*], and that before the heat has riſen to the boiling water point.

G Chemical proceſſes, in which water is a principal agent, are ſaid to be performed in the moiſt way: thoſe which are performed at high temperatures, and wherein water is little, if at all, concerned, are ſaid to be performed in the dry way.

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[*] In its metallic form. This curious fact was communicated by Mr. Babington.

CHAP. IV.

OF THE FIRST COMPONENT PRINCIPLES OF BODIES, OR SUCH AS ARE THE MOST SIMPLE.

ALL bodies are parts, either of animal, vegetable, or mineral ſubſtances. During the life of animal and vegetable ſubſtances, various proceſſes, both mechanical and chemical, are carried on within them, by means hitherto very imperfectly explained. The principles that enter into the compoſition of theſe are far from being ſimple. As ſoon as their ſtructure is, by violence or otherwiſe, ſo impaired as to deſtroy life, the arrangement of chemical principles begins to change. Decompoſitions and new combinations take place among the ſolid as well as the fluid parts. The organization of the veſſels is deſtroyed, and after a certain time the whole, as far as obſervation can follow the proceſſes, returns to the general repoſitory of minerals or unorganized matter, from which it originated, and cannot again be diſtinguiſhed.

The ſimpleſt bodies are air, water, ſalts, earths, and inflammables. Many chemical philoſophers of the firſt eminence are now buſied in diſcovering or aſcertaining the component parts of theſe; but the limits of the preſent work, as well as its intention, will not admit of entering, except occaſionally, into the conſideration either of the facts or theories they have exhibited to the world.

K Many ſubſtances may aſſume the aerial form, either by their diſengagement by ſtronger affinity (143, c), or by increaſing their temperature. Air is diſtinguiſhed from tranſparent vapor by its more permanent elaſticity. It is probable that this difference conſiſts in the greater aptitude of vapor for imparting its heat to other bodies, or combining with them. There are ſeveral kinds of air that loſe their elaſticity and combine with water, if preſented to them; and there are others that cannot be kept in an elaſtic form for any length of time, merely becauſe of their aptitude to combine with every fluid that has hitherto been uſed to confine them.

L When air is claſſed among ſimple ſubſtances, nothing more is therefore to be underſtood than that a variety of principles are obtainable in this form, much more ſimple than it is probable they will ever be met with in any other.

M Water enters as a ſimple ſubſtance into the compoſition of many bodies. There are no unequivocal proofs of its having ever been changed

N or decompoſed in any chemical proceſs. Yet if inflammable air and pure air be burned together, water is produced which is ſaid to be equal in weight to the quantities of air made uſe of. Whence it is concluded, that water is compoſed of thoſe airs combined together in the heat of combuſtion (141, T), during which act, the latent heat

(118. M. 124. N) that maintained the aerial form is given out.

The pureſt natural water is rain, collected at a diſtance from trees or buildings. For chemical purpoſes, water ſhould be diſtilled in glaſs veſſels, with a heat not ſufficient to make it boil, and no more than two-thirds of the whole quantity ſhould be drawn off. The lighteſt, cleareſt, and moſt taſteleſs water, which lathers well with ſoap, is purer than ſuch waters as are deficient in theſe qualities. O

Salts are ſuch bodies as are diſſolvable for the moſt part in leſs than two hundred times their weight of boiling water, and more or leſs affect the organ of taſte. They liquefy by heat, which cauſes them to evaporate, either in part or totally, according to the component parts of the ſalt, and the intenſity of temperature. P

Simple ſalts are either acids or alkalis. Compound ſalts are either combinations of acids with alkalis, which are called neutral ſalts; of acids with earth, called middle ſalts; of acids with metals, called metallic ſalts; or combinations of theſe with each other. Q

Earths are taſteleſs brittle ſubſtances, differing from ſalts by their leſs ſolubility in water, the diſtinguiſhing limit being not founded in nature, but arbitrary. Water at a high temperature, as when confined in the ſtrong metallic veſſel called Papin's Digeſter, will diſſolve ſome, and probably all earths. The ſubſtances claſſed under this R title are not ſoluble in the open air in leſs than between ſix and ſeven hundred times their weight of boiling water. They are not ſuſceptible of the metallic luſtre. In the fire they are fixed. A low heat does not alter their form or other properties, and ſimple earths are not fuſible alone, by the moſt violent heat that art can produce.

S Simple earths are five; calcareous earth, or pure quick-lime; ponderous earth; magneſia; argillaceous earth, or pure clay; and ſiliceous earth. Theſe earths have never yet been decompoſed. Like all other ſimple ſubſtances, they are never found pure, but the methods uſed in chemiſtry can eaſily ſeparate them from the matters they may happen to be either combined or mixed with.

T Inflammables are ſuch bodies as with acceſs of pure air are capable of maintaining the act of combuſtion (124, N). It is not eaſy to explain this wonderful proceſs. According to the great STAHL, all inflammable bodies contain a principle called Phlogiſton. This principle is ſcarcely to be exhibited alone, becauſe its great tendency to combination cauſes it to adhere ſo forcibly to the principles it may be united with as not to quit them, but in its paſſage to ſome other principles to which it may have a greater affinity. The affinity of phlogiſton to pure air is taken to be greater than its affinity to moſt ſubſtances that contain it. Upon a proper increaſe of temperature (141, T) in the inflammable ſubſtance, and the pure air contiguous to it, a rapid decompoſition takes place. The phlogiſton quits the ſubſtance to unite with the air, and the proceſs goes on, if a ſufficient quantity of air be preſent, till the body is deprived of the whole or moſt part of its phlogiſton, at which time it is ſaid to be calcined or burned.

It is the diſcovery of Dr. Adair Crawford, that u
the capacities of bodies for heat are leſs, the more phlogiſton they contain. Whence the great increaſe of temperature in combuſtion is ſhewn to ariſe from the heat rendered ſenſible in conſequence of the capacity of the air being diminiſhed by phlogiſtication*.

The ſimpleſt inflammable ſubſtances are, in- v
flammable air, diamond, plumbago, ſulphurs, and metals. More compounded inflammable mat-

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* A reſpectable number of chemiſts, chiefly French, do not admit the exiſtence of phlogiſton, but explain the proceſſes in which phlogiſton is ſaid to be concerned, in another way. According to them, it is not the ſubtraction of phlogiſton, but the addition of air that converts metals into calces; and in proceſſes for the reduction of calces the metal is ſaid to be revived, not by the acceſſion of phlogiſton, but by the loſs of the air that had combined with it. This is the leading feature of the new theory maintained by facts and deductions, which, if they ſhould fail in overthrowing the doctrine of Stahl, will, however, be of great advantage to ſcience, in many reſpects. This important ſubject cannot be here diſcuſſed: the theory which admits the exiſtence of phlogiſton will be adhered to in this work, becauſe it is the moſt generally received, and becauſe the author thinks it the moſt probable of the two.

ter are, hepatic air, ſpirits, ether, oils, bitumens, coal, and generally all animal and vegetable ſubſtances in their natural ſtate.

w When a metal, either by combuſtion or otherwiſe, is deprived of a part of its phlogiſton, it loſes its malleability, aſſumes many of the properties of an earth, and no longer exhibits the luſtre peculiar to this claſs of bodies. In this ſtate it is called a calx, and forms combinations with ſaline ſubſtances. When the metallic ſtate is reſtored, by adding phlogiſton to a metallic calx, the metal is ſaid to be revived.

x Every ſubſtance, which paſſes from a fluid to a ſolid ſtate, appears to have its parts arranged in a ſymmetrical order, that extends to a greater or leſs number of particles, accordingly as the influence of external circumſtances, or the rapidity with which the change of ſtate is performed are concerned in the proceſs. Thus we ſee that moſt minerals; ſaline combinations, whether obtained by ſolution or ſublimation; and metals, if ſuffered to cool ſlowly, have their peculiar forms, though in ſome more evident and diſtinguiſhable than in others. This property, called cryſtallization, is by ſome diſtinguiſhed into two kinds: the one made in a menſtruum, as ſalt cryſtallizes in water, and the other by mere cooling, as when water freezes alone. Thoſe who affirm that heat is matter, imagine it to be the medium in which this laſt cryſtallization is performed.

It would be of ſingular advantage in mineralogy, Y and every other ſcience related to chemiſtry, if the external appearance and figure of bodies could be applied to the purpoſe of knowing what claſs they belong to. This is indeed done with ſome ſucceſs, by ſuch as have opportunities of examining many ſpecimens; but no general rules can be eſtabliſhed, on account of the exceedingly great number of exceptions that ariſe from circumſtances, or differences in the compound, either too minute for the chemical analyſis to aſcertain, or apparently too inſignificant to excite the attention of the obſerver.

CHAP. V.

THE METHOD OF MAKING EXPERIMENTS ON VARIOUS KINDS OF AIR.

EXPERIMENTS to be made with the various Z kinds of air require an apparatus of veſſels proper for confining it. The chief are thoſe we are about to deſcribe.

Fig. 157. A, is a tub for containing water. In A this tub is fixed a ſhelf K, K, ſo placed that it may be about an inch below the ſurface of the water, when the tub is nearly full. B and F are cylindrical glaſs jars. C is a bottle, into the neck of which the bent tube D is fitted, by grinding. Suppoſe now that the veſſel B be plunged

in the water, ſo as to be filled, and afterwards raiſed, with its mouth downwards, and placed on the ſhelf K, it will continue full of water on the principle of the barometer; if its rim be made to overhang the edge of the ſhelf, it will be eaſy to introduce the end of the tube D beneath it; and if the veſſel C contain ſuch matters as by their action on each other furniſh air, the air will paſs through the tube D, and riſe to the top of B, expelling more or leſs of the water. A candle may be applied beneath C in caſes where heat is wanted.

B E is a ſmall retort, ſuppoſed to contain materials that afford air to the veſſel F.

C Air may be transferred from one veſſel to another by the help of a glaſs-funnel under water. Thus the veſſel G being ſuppoſed to be previouſly filled with water, and placed on the ſhelf, over a hole in which the funnel H is ſtuck, the air may be poured out of the veſſel I through the funnel into G.

D Many kinds of air combine with water, and therefore require to be treated in an apparatus in which quickſilver is made uſe of. This fluid being very ponderous, and of conſiderable price; motives both of convenience and œconomy, require that the apparatus ſhould be made ſmaller than when water is uſed.

E Where the change of dimenſions that follows from the mixture of different kinds of air is required to be aſcertained, a graduated tube (fig. 158.) is made uſe of. And becauſe the ſalubrity of common air is ſuppoſed to be determinable by this means, ſuch a tube is called an eudiometer tube. There are apparatus of a leſs ſimple conſtruction, which are intended to anſwer the ſame purpoſe, and are called eudiometers.

Fig. 159. is a glaſs-apparatus for impregnating water with fixed air. It conſiſts of three veſſels. The lower veſſel C has an orifice or neck D, with a ground-ſtopper; the veſſel B is fitted by grinding, into the neck H of the veſſel D. At E is a glaſs-cock; and in the lower neck of the middle veſſel B is a valve, opening upwards. This valve is compoſed of two tubes of glaſs, with a moveable plano-convex lens between, as repreſented in fig. 160. The upper veſſel A is fitted, by grinding, into the neck I of the veſſel B. It terminates below, in a tubular form G, and is cloſed at top by the ſtopper F. The proceſs is thus conducted. Pieces either of marble or chalk are put into the lower veſſel C, and water poured thereon; the veſſel B is then filled with water, and placed on C, by inſerting its lower part in the neck H. The empty veſſel A is placed in like manner on B, its ſtopper F being in its place. Laſtly, a ſmall quantity of oil of vitriol is poured into the orifice D, which is then cloſed. The vitriolic acid combines with the earthy part of the marble or chalk, and diſengages the fixed air that entered into its combination, which, of courſe, paſſes through the valve at H, to the upper part of the veſſel B. The diſplaced water being prevented from deſcending by the valve, is forced up through the tube G into the veſſel A; at the ſame time that the common air in this laſt veſſel is partly condenſed, and partly eſcapes, by lifting the ſtopper F, which is ground conical, to prevent its ſticking. When the water in B has deſcended as low as the orifice of G, the fixed air paſſes up through the tube inſtead of water, and expels the common air from the upper part of A. Both ſurfaces of the water being thus expoſed to the fixed air, this fluid gradually abſorbed, gives the water that lively ſubacid taſte, which is the diſtinguiſhing character of the Pyrmont water.

H Thoſe who are not provided with the apparatus here deſcribed, may ſupply its place by the help of utenſils that are every where to be met with. A (fig. 161.) is a half-pint phial; B a bladder, whoſe neck is tied round a cork that fits the mouth of A, and has a hole made through it with a heated wire. The ſame bladder is ſeen at D, with a bent tube E ſtuck in the hole of the cork. In the phial A is chalk, with water acidulated with oil of vitriol. The fixed air that riſes is received in the bladder, previouſly moiſtened. While the bladder is filling, a quart bottle C, full of water, is to be inverted into the baſon F, which likewiſe containing a little water, prevents the common air from riſing into C. As ſoon as the bladder is filled it is taken from the phial A. The tube E is inſerted, and its orifice carefully placed under the mouth of the quart bottle C, as in the figure. The bladder being then preſſed, the fixed air aſcends to the upper part of C at the ſame time that an equal bulk of water deſcends into the

the baſon. By agitating the bottle c, without withdrawing its neck from the water, the fixed air becomes abſorbed in a few ſeconds, and the water reaſcends. This proceſs being repeated two or three times, the water becomes ſaturated, as appears by the fixed air being no longer abſorbed.

Though this method poſſeſſes the advantage of convenience, to ſuch as cannot uſe the other, yet, it does not produce ſo ſtrong an impregnation; partly, becauſe the water takes up more fixed air when condenſed by preſſure, and partly, becauſe in this laſt method the water in the baſon being expoſed to the atmoſphere, gives out a portion of the fixed air it contains.

CHAP. VI.

CONCERNING WATER, ACIDS, AND ALKALIS.

THE properties of water have been ſo often adverted to in the former parts of this Treatiſe, that it is the leſs neceſſary to treat them diffuſively in this place. Water in freezing uſually aſſumes a ſymmetrical form, which is that of needles croſſing each other at angles of 60° or 120°. This arrangement of the parts occaſions the maſs to occupy conſiderably more ſpace than before, and the expanſion, which is performed almoſt inſtantly, is effected with ſuch prodigious force, that no veſſel has yet been uſed that can withſtand it.

Bomb-ſhells and gun-barrels have been broken by freezing water in them.

L From this expanſion it is, that ice is ſpecifically leſs heavy than water, and conſequently floats upon its ſurface.

M It is equally difficult to aſcertain any limits to the force with which water in a ſtate of vapour may be expanded by heat.

N Water is ſo univerſal a ſolvent, and enters into ſo many chemical proceſſes, that moſt philoſophers overlook its agency, in the conſideration of facts it is concerned in: and to this circumſtance it is, perhaps, chiefly owing, that its component parts have hitherto been undiſcovered.

O Acids are ſalts, which are ſour to the taſte. They convert the blue colour of tincture of heliotropium * to a red, and cauſe an ebullition or eſcape of air, if applied to chalk or mild alkalis. The affinity of the purer acids for water is ſuch, that for the moſt part they cannot be obtained in a concrete ſtate; and their action on other ſubſtances is ſo general, that they are never found pure, but require the aſſiſtance of art to render them ſo.

P The acids found in the mineral kingdom are, the aerial acid or fixed air; the vitriolic acid, known in commerce by the name of oil of vitriol; the nitrous acid, called ſpirit of nitre; the marine acid, called ſpirit of ſalt; the acid of ſpar, or ſparry acid; the acid of borax, called ſedative ſalt; the ſuccinous acid, or acid of amber; the phoſphoric acid; the

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* Called litmus by the dyers.

acid of molybdena; the acid of arſenic; and the acid of tungſten or wolfram.

The vegetable kingdom affords many acids: q
thoſe which have been examined chemically are vinegar, the acids of tartar, of ſugar, of ſorrel, of lemons, and of benjamin.

The acids peculiar to the animal kingdom are r
the acids of milk, of ſugar of milk, of ants, of tallow, of pruſſian blue, and the acidum perlati.

Vegetable and animal acids are ſo far from being s
ſimple, that many of them are reſolvable into air by the proceſs of diſtillation. The aerial and the phoſphoric acids, though enumerated in the mineral kingdom, are alſo obtained in great quantities, both from animal and vegetable matters.

Modern chemiſtry has diſcovered many acids, t
and there is good reaſon to expect that their component parts will be diſcloſed by the labours of our cotemporaries; but the alkaline ſalts ſtill remain no more than three in number, and have not hitherto been treated in any method that promiſes a ſatisfactory analyſis. They have a peculiar cauſtic urinous taſte, and convert the blue colour of the tincture of heliotropium to a green.

The vegetable fixed alkali, impure ſamples of u
which are met with in commerce, under the names of ſalt of tartar, pot-aſh, pearl-aſh, &c. is moſt plentifully obtained from vegetable ſubſtances.

The mineral fixed alkali is met with in an im- v
pure ſtate, in commerce, under the names of kelp, barilla, ſoda, or ſalt of ſoda. It is found in the earth,

earth, either pure or in combination with other matters. The ſea contains immenſe quantities of it, where it is one of the conſtituent parts of common ſalt, and it is the moſt profitably obtained from vegetables that contain ſea-ſalt.

w The volatile alkali is ſold by the apothecaries under the name of ſmelling ſalts, or ſal-volatile, in which ſtate it is combined with a large portion of aerial acid. It is moſt plentifully obtained from animal ſubſtances, being combined in them with other principles. The proceſs of putrefaction throws it off into the air, together with other volatile matters that vitiate, and often diſguiſe its ſmell.

x Alkalis, combined with the aerial acid, are ſaid to be mild; when they are diveſted of every acid they are called cauſtic.

CHAP. VII.

THE PROPERTIES OF SIMPLE OR PRIMITIVE EARTHS.

CALCAREOUS earth is in a tolerably pure Y ſtate in common quicklime. If pounded chalk be ſeveral times boiled in diſtilled water to ſeparate by ſolution ſuch ſaline matters as may be found in it, the remainder will conſiſt almoſt entirely of calcareous earth, united to about an equal weight of fixed air, or aerial acid. If diſtilled vinegar be added to this powder, it will form a ſaline combination with the earth only, at the ſame time that the fixed air, aſſuming an elaſtic form, flies off. To this ſolution, decanted from the impurities, mild volatile alkali being added, the alkali will unite with the vinegar, while the calcareous earth combines with the fixed air of the alkali, and falls to the bottom. This powder, well waſhed and dried, is pure chalk, or calcareous earth united with fixed air. This laſt may be driven off by fire, and will leave the pure calcareous earth diſengaged.

Calcareous earth requires about ſix hundred and Z eighty times its weight of water to diſſolve it at the temperature of 60°, to which it gives a pungent taſte. This water, called lime-water, acquires a white cruſt on the ſurface, by expoſure to the atmoſphere, which breaks and falls to the bottom, another cruſt forming ſoon after, and ſo on till the whole of the lime is precipitated. The precipitate is chalk, or mild calcareous earth; whence the proceſs may be eaſily explained. For chalk is ſcarcely, if at all, ſoluble in water: and the lime contained in the water being converted into chalk, by the acceſſion of fixed air from the atmoſphere, becomes an inſoluble cruſt, that falls at intervals, as its quantity becomes too great to be ſupported at the ſurface.

A This earth is ſoluble in all acids. It is infuſible in every degree of heat yet obtained, except that of the famous lens of PARKER, in London, which produced a ſlight beginning of fuſion. Yet it will melt in a more moderate heat, if mixed with other earths, of which it appears to be the flux or ſolvent.

B The ſpecimens of calcareous earth are very many. Lime-ſtone, chalk, many kinds of marble, and almoſt every one of the numerous varieties of ſpars, whether tranſparent or opake, conſiſt of this earth combined either with the aerial or ſome other acid. Aerated calcareous earth may be known to predominate in any mineral, when it froths on the application of an acid.

C Terra ponderoſa, or ponderous earth, is not met with in abundance. The commoneſt ſpecimens are the ponderous ſpar, or marmor metallicum, ſo called from its great weight, beſt known to our Engliſh miners by the name of cawk. It is met with opake, white, grey or yellowiſh, either irregularly ſhaped, or in a ſingular form, reſembling convex lenſes, ſet edgewiſe into the maſs it adheres to. The tranſparent ſpecimens are priſmical, and of conſiderable hardneſs. All theſe conſiſt of ponderous earth, combined with the vitriolic acid.

Ponderous earth, combined with the aerial acid, D has been found at Alſton Moor, in Cumberland. It reſembles alum, but is of a ſtriated texture, and its ſpecific gravity is 4,331.

If the ponderous ſpar, or ponderous earth com- E bined with the vitriolic acid, be expoſed to a ſtrong red heat, for about two hours, with near twice its weight of fixed alkali, the acid quits the earth to combine with this laſt, forming a neutral ſalt, which may be waſhed away, and leaves the earth combined with fixed air and water. The fixed air may be expelled by heat.

Pure ponderous earth, thus obtained, is ſoluble F in about nine hundred times its weight of water. This water reſembles lime-water in taſte, and depoſits its earth, by expoſure to the air, in the ſame manner.

The properties of ponderous and calcareous G earth agree in many reſpects; but in others they differ ſo much, as clearly to evince that they are not one and the ſame earth, as has been ſuſpected *.

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* See Bergman's Works, Kirwan's Mineralogy, and Withering on the terra ponderoſa aerata, in Phil. Tranſ. for 1784.

H Magneſia, or magneſian earth, enters into the compoſition of ſome earthy ſubſtances, the chief of which are ſteatites, ſoap-rock, French chalk, aſbeſtos, and talk. It is in the ſea-water in great quantities, combined either with the marine or vitriolic acids. Epſom ſalt is a combination of the vitriolic acid with magneſia. If this be diſſolved in water, and mild volatile alkali added, the magneſia is precipitated in combination with the fixed air, while the alkali unites with the vitriolic acid. The magneſia thus obtained, contains one fourth of its weight in fixed air, and about the ſame quantity of water. Both are driven off by fire, by which the magneſia is rendered pure, and has ſomewhat leſs than half the weight it poſſeſſed in its former mild ſtate.

I Clay, or argillaceous earth, is found every where in great quantities, but in the native ſpecimens it is always mixed with a conſiderable quantity of other earths. Alum is a ſalt, conſiſting of argillaceous earth, combined with the vitriolic acid. If it be diſſolved in water, and the mild volatile alkali added, this laſt unites with the acid while the earth is precipitated, combined with a ſmall proportion of the aerial acid.

K Argillaceous earth imbibes water ſtrongly, but is ſcarcely ſoluble therein. When ſufficiently divided, it forms a tenacious maſs with water, ſo as to admit of being moulded into various forms. It contracts very much by heat, and acquires a flinty hardneſs by baking, which does not then ſuffer any alteration from water; though its original ſoftneſs and tenacity may be again reſtored by ſolution in acids, and precipitation.

This earth, which is ſo uſeful in the arts, has L been applied *, with great ſucceſs to the admeaſurement of the higher degrees of heat. For as the expanſion of the mercury, in a common thermometer, indicates the ſucceſſive augmentations of temperature, ſo the contractions of the volume of a ſmall brick of clay, by expoſure to ignition, are found to be greater, the more violent the heat. By the help of which property we are in poſſeſſion of an invaluable method of meaſuring and comparing thoſe high temperatures.

Siliceous earth, which is alſo called cryſtalline, M or vitrifiable earth, abounds in many ſubſtances. Cryſtal is one of the pureſt ſpecimens. Extreme hardneſs is moſt commonly a characteriſtic of ſiliceous earths, ſo that ſtones, in which it predominates, will ſtrike fire with ſteel, or at leaſt will ſcratch its ſurface, however highly tempered.

To procure ſiliceous earth in a pure ſtate, clear N cryſtals, or quartz, muſt be reduced into powder, and melted with four times its weight of fixed alkali. The compound is then to be diſſolved in water, and the vitriolic acid added in conſiderable quantity. The alkali and acid unite together, forming a ſalt that remains in ſolution: if

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* By J. Wedgwood, Eſq. See the Phil. Tranſ.

there be any other kind of earth preſent, it will likewiſe combine with the ſuperfluous acid. But the ſiliceous earth being diſengaged, falls to the bottom in a ſubtile powder, which muſt be cleared of the ſaline liquor by decantation, and repeated waſhing with pure water.

o This earth is acted on by no acid but the acid of ſpar, or fluor. Fixed alkalis diſſolve it, either in the dry or moiſt way. Like the other earths, it is not fuſible without addition by any heat yet obtained.

p Though the ſimple earths are all infuſible alone, yet they may be fuſed by mixture with each other. The calcareous earth is found to act as a menſtruum in diſſolving other earths by fuſion; and when it has once acted on any earth, a compound menſtruum is formed, which is ſtill more efficacious on other earths. Hence it is that equal parts of any three of the ſimple earths may be fuſed into glaſs, provided calcareous earth be one of the number.

CHAP. VIII.

CONCERNING THE PROPERTIES OF BODIES IN WHICH PHLOGISTON ABOUNDS.

ALL bodies which can be ſubjected to the act of combuſtion, contain a ſubſtance capable of being exhibited in the form of inflammable air. They may all be deprived of their inflammable air by combuſtion, except the noble metals; and theſe do not invalidate the general concluſion, becauſe chemiſtry has other methods of treating them, ſo as to exhibit the inflammable air they contain. The ſimple combuſtible bodies, after having been burned, may be reſtored to their original ſtate, by renewing the inflammable air they had loſt; and in this operation it is of no conſequence what the ſubſtance may be that ſupplies it. For theſe and other reaſons it is inferred, that inflammable air, when free from foreign admixtures, is one and the ſame principle, namely, the principle whereon the inflammability of bodies depends on, or phlogiſton. Q

Phlogiſton, combined with ſome unknown matter, forms diamond; with acids, it forms plumbago, ſulphur, phoſphorus; with calces, it forms metals, and in its combinations with water, acids, and perhaps other matters, after certain modifications not clearly underſtood, it forms ether, ardent R ſpirit, oils, amber, bitumens, coal, and various other inflammable bodies; many of theſe may be exhibited in the form of air.

S The diamond is found in various parts of the Mogul's empire, and alſo in the Eaſt Indian iſlands and the Brazils. It is uſually of an octohedral form, though not unfrequently in round maſſes. The conſent of mankind has ſtamped a prodigious value on the diamond. Its great luſtre, which ſeems to have been the property that originally attracted their notice, is owing to two cauſes. The firſt is, that being the hardeſt of all bodies, it takes and preſerves a moſt exquiſite poliſh; and the other is, that its refractive power is ſo much greater than that of any other medium, as to occaſion all the light to be reflected (1. 270, A) which falls on any of its hinder ſurfaces, at a greater angle of incidence than 24¼ degrees. Now at a leſs angle of incidence in glaſs on the internal ſurface than 41 degrees, the light will be tranſmitted. Conſequently, if an artificial gem and a real diamond be compared, the light falling on each, alike ſituated, will be thrown back with its full glare from a diamond, not only in all the caſes wherein glaſs will reflect it, but likewiſe at all the angles between 41° and 24¼°, while the glaſs ſuffering it to paſs through, will appear lifeleſs and dull. It is no wonder therefore, that the effect of the diamond is ſo much greater.

T No acid, but the vitriolic, has any effect on this gem; in which, if diamond powder be triturated,

turated, and evaporation carried on nearly to dryneſs, the acid grows black, and depoſites pellicles that burn, and are almoſt entirely conſumed.

In a heat ſomewhat greater than is required to melt ſilver, diamond is entirely volatilized and conſumed, producing a ſlight flame, and leaving a ſoot behind. u

Plumbago, or black lead uſed for pencils, is not ſoluble in the mineral acids, and is totally diſſipated or volatilized in a ſtrong heat. In a red heat it is decompoſed by the addition of nitre, with which it deflagrates. This ſubſtance is found to conſiſt of the aerial acid united to phlogiſton. v

Sulphur, or brimſtone, is a compound of the vitriolic acid and phlogiſton. It is ſoluble in oils, and alſo in alkalis. At a temperature, not much greater than that of boiling water, it evaporates in the open air, and is decompoſed at the ſame time, emitting a flame which by day has the appearance of a white fume, but in the dark is luminous, though its heat is ſo ſmall, that it may be ſuffered to play againſt the palm of the hand without much inconvenience. At a higher temperature, it burns with a vivid blue flame, and is decompoſed more rapidly, the acid taking the form of air of a moſt ſuffocating odour. This air, called vitriolic acid air, unites with water, if preſent, and forms the volatile vitriolic acid. w

Sulphur is not decompoſed, but ſublimes entire, if expoſed to heat, without acceſs of air. x

Phoſphorus

Y Phoſphorus differs from ſulphur in the nature of its acid. Like ſulphur, it burns with two kinds of flame, but is much more inflammable: for a heat of about 60 degrees is ſufficient to produce the weaker flame, and at 160° it burſts into a ſtrongly vivid, and moſt deſtructive flame. Its acid is not volatilized, but remains after combuſtion. It ſublimes entire by heat, provided air be not preſent.

Z Metallic ſubſtances are diſtinguiſhable from all other bodies by their great ſpecific gravity and opake ſhining appearance. They are compoſed each of phlogiſton, united to a peculiar heavy, dull, brittle ſubſtance, called a calx (152, w), which in ſome reſpects reſembles earths. Theſe, when partially deprived of phlogiſton, are ſoluble in acids, and form ſalts. Such metals as are not calcinable, to any ſenſible degree, by mere heat, with acceſs of air, are called perfect metals; ſuch as are calcinable by fire, are called imperfect. Metallic ſubſtances that may be extended by hammering, are called metals, in contradiſtinction to ſuch as are more or leſs brittle, and are called ſemimetals. All metallic ſubſtances may be fuſed without addition; and if the acceſs of air be excluded, they fix again by cold, without having ſuffered any loſs or change of their conſtituent parts. They all conduct the electric matter with great facility.

A Of metals hitherto diſcovered, the perfect are gold, platina, and ſilver; the imperfect are mercury,

cury, or quickſilver, lead, copper, iron, and tin; the ſemi-metals are biſmuth, nickel, regulus of arſenic, cobalt, zink, regulus of antimony, regulus of maganeſe, regulus of wolfram, and regulus of molybdena.

CHAP. IX.

OF THE VITRIOLIC ACID, AND COMBINATIONS WHEREIN IT IS A PRINCIPAL PART.

THE vitriolic acid, ſo denominated becauſe B obtained from the ſalt called vitriol, is found in great quantities united to phlogiſton, in the form of ſulphur. Sulphur is either found native in the neighbourhood of volcanos, or united with earths or metals. One of the moſt common ſulphureous C compounds is the pyrites, or mundic. This conſiſts uſually of ſulphur, iron, clay, and ſiliceous earth. It is generally of a yellow or greyiſh colour, of a globular or cubic ſhape, internally radiated, or ſometimes lamellar. With the ſteel it ſtrikes fire plentifully, whence its name is derived. If pyrites be expoſed to heat in cloſed veſſels, the ſulphur ſublimes; but in the open air it is decompoſed by combuſtion, the quantity and combination of the principles left in the maſs being by that means changed.

The pyrites, by long expoſure to the action of D the air and moiſture, ſuffer a remarkable change in their component parts. The phlogiſton of the ſulphur, by a proceſs analogous to combuſtion, is thrown off, while the acid and water unite with the iron, forming vitriol, and with the clay, forming alum (164, I). Theſe may be obtained by ſolution in water; and a ſubſequent evaporation diminiſhes the quantity of the ſolvent, ſo as to cauſe the ſalts to ſeparate in the form of cryſtals.

E If vitriol be expoſed to diſtillation, the water that entered into the compoſition of the cryſtals riſes, and afterwards the greateſt part of the acid, with ſome of the phlogiſton of the iron, leaving a brown maſs in the retort, called colcothar. A ſecond diſtillation, with leſs heat, ſeparates the phlogiſticated acid, and leaves the denſe concentrated vitriolic acid behind.

F This proceſs for obtaining the vitriolic acid is not now uſed, becauſe a cheaper method has been contrived for procuring it immediately from ſulphur. A quantity of ſulphur and nitre groſsly mixed, are placed in a veſſel within a ſmall chamber or room, lined with lead, and containing ſome few inches of water on its bottom. The ſulphur is lighted, and the room cloſed. The nitre ſerves to maintain the combuſtion, by ſupplying pure air, and the vitriolic acid is thus volatilized in the form of air, which (169, w) combines with the water. To expedite this combination, it is ſaid that ſteam of water is introduced into the cloſed room during the combuſtion. By a repetition of the proceſs, the water becomes more and more acid. The phlogiſton is diſſipated by expoſure to air, and the acid is concentrated by diſtilling off the ſuperfluous water.

The vitriolic acid is denſe, colourleſs, and has a ſtronger tendency to combination in more caſes than every other acid. It may be ſo far deprived of water as to become concrete, but it attracts this fluid ſo powerfully as to deliqueſce by expoſure to the atmoſphere in a ſhort time, and does not ceaſe to attract the humidity of the air till it has acquired more than ſix times its original weight. In caſes where a certain quantity of air is required to be diveſted of its moiſture, it may be performed by placing a cup, containing concentrated vitriolic acid under the receiver that confines the air. 0

This acid, and, indeed, every other chemical principle, is beſt known by the phenomena it preſents, and the combinations it produces when united to other bodies. The moſt common of theſe are here enumerated. The names are given according to the Nomenclature of Bergman, who converts the name of the acid in any combination into an adjective, which he applies to the baſe or other principle: ſuch other ſynonimes are likewiſe added as are moſt commonly uſed by chemical or medical writers. 11

If the vitriolic acid be poured into a ſolution of the vegetable alkali, to ſaturation, which may be determined by a ſmall quantity of the liquid producing no change of colour with the tincture of heliotropium (158, o) a neutral ſalt is formed that aſſumes the figure of cryſtals, as the water is dimi- 1 niſhed by evaporation. This is called vitriolated vegetable alkali, or vitriolated tartar, and contains thirty-one parts of acid, ſixty-three of alkali, and ſix of water. It is not eaſy of ſolution in water, requiring ſixteen times its weight to diſſolve it in the temperature of 60°; but if the water be boiling, five parts are ſufficient. Vitriolated tartar is uſed only in medicine.

K The vitriolated mineral alkali, or Glauber's ſalt, may be produced in the ſame manner, by making uſe of the mineral alkali inſtead of the vegetable. It contains fourteen parts of acid, twenty-two of alkali, and ſixty-four of water, and reſembles vitriolated tartar in many of its properties, but requires only three times its weight of water to diſſolve it at the temperature of 60°. Great part of the water that enters into the formation of the cryſtals is diſſipated by expoſure for ſome time to the air, the ſalt gradually falling into a white powder or effloreſcence.

L Vitriolated volatile alkali, or vitriolic ammoniac, contains forty-two parts acid, forty of alkali, and eighteen of water.

M Vitriolated lime, commonly called ſelenite, abounds in vaſt quantities in nature, and accordingly as its external appearance and texture differs, it is called gypſum, lapis ſpecularis, alabaſter. In the temperature of 60° it requires about five hundred times its weight of water to diſſolve it, and from thence was formerly reckoned among the earths, though its component parts are thirty acid, thirty-two earth, and thirty-eight water. By expoſure to heat a little below ignition, about twenty parts of its water are diſſipated, at the ſame time that it falls into a powder, which is agitated by the vapours that eſcape in ſuch a manner as to cauſe the appearance of boiling. This powder is known in commerce by the name of plaſter of Paris, and is chiefly uſed for making ſtatues, and other articles that receive their figure from a mould; an uſe to which it is admirably adapted, by the ſpeedy reſumption of a ſolid form, when the water of cryſtallization is reſtored: for, if the powder be mixed with water, to the conſiſtence of thin paſte, it may be poured into a mould, and will run into all the ſtrokes and cavities with the greateſt facility; a few minutes after which, the water that maintained the ſtate of fluidity, by mere mixture with the powder, combines intimately with it, and the whole maſs becomes ſolid.

N Vitriolated ponderous earth, or marmor metallicum, already deſcribed, (162, c) contains eighty-four parts of earth, thirteen of acid, and three of water; in the native ſpecimens it is inſoluble, or nearly ſo in water.

O Vitriolated magneſia, or Epſom ſalt, contains twenty-four parts of acid, nineteen of earth, and fifty-ſeven of water. It effloreſces like Glauber's ſalt, by expoſure to the air, and requires about its own weight of water to diſſolve it in the temperature of 60°.

Vitriolated

P Vitriolated clay, or alum, contains twenty-four parts of acid, eighteen of earth, and fifty-eight of water. Its cryſtals are uſually covered with a ſlight effloreſcence. In about fifteen times its weight of water at the temperature of 60°, it is totally diſſolved; but at higher degrees of heat it is ſoluble in a very ſmall quantity of that fluid. It is fuſed even by its own water of cryſtallization, and boils up into a frothy maſs, which gradually dries into a white friable ſubſtance, called calcined alum. Calcined alum is, however, no otherwiſe changed than by the loſs of its water, and may be reduced again into its original form by reſtoring it.

Q Vitriolated phlogiſton, or ſulphur (169, W) is found to contain ſixty parts of acid, and forty of phlogiſton. From the inflammability of ſulphur, and its affording the vitriolic acid, it is concluded that it contains phlogiſton, and that acid. And it exhibits no other products.

R The combination of ſulphur with a fixed alkali may be made either in the dry way, by melting the two ſubſtances together, or in the moiſt way, by boiling ſulphur in an alkaline lixivium, and evaporating the water. This laſt method is, however, ſeldom made uſe of. The liver of ſulphur, ſo called from its colour, has a fetid ſmell, is ſoluble in water, and is very deliqueſcent. The force of adheſion between the acid and phlogiſton being much weakened by the attraction exerted by the alkali on the former, the phlogiſton continually flies off into the air, and at length leaves the alkali united only to the acid, forming either vitriolated tartar or Glauber's ſalt. So likewiſe the attraction exerted in this caſe between the acid and alkali is much weaker than it would have been if the acid were not likewiſe in combination with phlogiſton. For, if the liver of ſulphur be diſſolved in water, the alkali will be attracted and the ſulphur precipitated, on the addition of an acid, whoſe elective attraction to the alkali is much leſs powerful than that of the vitriolic acid when at liberty.

The method of Stahl for producing ſulphur, by the direct combination of the vitriolic acid with the principle of inflammability, deſerves to be mentioned in this place. Equal parts of vegetable fixed alkali, and vitriolated tartar, are fuſed in a crucible, after which ſomewhat leſs than one-fourth part of charcoal in powder is added, and the whole well mixed by ſtirring. The crucible is then covered, and a ſtrong heat given for a very ſhort time; after which it is taken from the fire, and the contents poured on a ſmooth ſtone, previouſly ground. This matter is not found to differ in its eſſential properties from the liver of ſulphur, and if diſſolved in water, the ſulphur may be precipitated by the addition of an acid. The theory of theſe facts appears to be, that the phlogiſton of the charcoal combines with the concentrated acid of the vitriolated tartar, and forms ſulphur, which unites with the alkali in the ſame manner as other ſulphur would have done if directly added.

T The vitriolic acid, in combination with metallic calces, forms ſalts which have been denoted under the general name of vitriols. The three following only are known in commerce, or uſed in the arts.

U Vitriolated iron, or martial vitriol, known vulgarly by the name of green copperas, contains, when recently cryſtallized, twenty parts of acid, twenty-five of iron, and fifty-five of water; but it effloreſces by the loſs of part of its water when expoſed to the air. It requires ſix times its weight of water to diſſolve it in the temperature of 60°. This ſalt is uſed in dying blacks, and in making ink for writing.

V Vitriolated copper, or blue vitriol; of this thirty parts in the hundred are acid, twenty-ſeven copper, and forty-three water. It is uſually obtained from waters in Hungary, Sweden, or Ireland, in which it is naturally diſſolved. It requires about four times its weight of water to diſ-
W ſolve it in the temperature of 60°. In ſome places the waters naturally containing this ſalt are made to depoſit the copper by expoſing pieces of iron to their action. For the acid quits the copper, and forms martial vitriol, by uniting with the calx of the iron, while the phlogiſton of this laſt, uniting with the calx of copper, enables it to reſume its metallic ſtate. The martial vitriol being ſoluble, remains in the water, while the copper falls to the bottom in a muddy or powdery form. If the ſolution, or water containing vitriolated copper, has

no conſiderable exceſs of acid, eighty parts of iron will precipitate one hundred of copper. One of X the teſts of the preſence of vitriolated copper in a liquid conſiſts in dipping a piece of clean bright iron therein, which becomes immediately covered with a thin coat of copper, in conſequence of the beginning of the proceſs of transferring the acid from one metal to the other.

Vitriolated zink, vulgarly called white vitriol, or Y copperas, is of a white colour, and contains twenty-two parts of acid, twenty of zink, and fifty-eight of water. It is ſoluble in about twice its weight of water at the temperature of 60°.

If the concentrated vitriolic acid be heated with Z almoſt any ſubſtance, containing phlogiſton, part of the acid combines with the inflammable principle, and flies off in the form of vitriolic acid air. This may be confined by mercury, but unites with water, forming the volatile or phlogiſticated vitriolic acid, (172, F). Vitriolic acid air is fatal to animals.

In proceſſes with ſome of the metals, eſpecially A iron and zink, the vitriolic acid, when properly diluted, does not unite with the phlogiſton, which therefore riſes in the form of inflammable air. (95, X.) The chief reaſon of this ſeems to be, that the abundant water attracting the acid, counteracts the effect of its affinity for phlogiſton.

CHAP. X.

OF THE NITROUS ACID, AND COMBINATIONS WHEREIN IT IS A PRINCIPAL PART.

B NEITHER the nitrous acid, nor any of the
ſalts containing it, are ever found in conſi-
derable quantities in nature. This acid is obtained
by the complete putrefaction of animal or vegetable
ſubſtances; but whether it is produced, collected,
or developed by that proceſs, has not yet been ex-
c plained. Grounds frequently trodden by cattle,
and impregnated with their excrements, or where
vegetables rot, or in the vicinity of ſlaughter-
houſes, or burying-grounds, or other places expoſed
to putrid vapours, afford nitre after long expoſure
to the air. The earths that afford the beſt matrix
for the reception and complete putrefaction of the
vegetable or animal matter, are of the calcareous
kind; and in ſome places artificial beds, com-
pounded of putreſcent matter and calcareous earth,
are made with ſucceſs for the production of nitre.
If theſe beds contained much vegetable matter, a
conſiderable portion of the ſalt obtained from them
is true nitre, or the nitrous acid combined with the
vegetable alkali; but if otherwiſe, the nitrous acid
is, for the moſt part, combined with calcareous
earth, and requires the addition of the vegetable
alkali

alkali to decompoſe it. With this intention wood-aſhes, or pot-aſh, is uſually added in the proceſs, which is as follows:

A number of large caſks are prepared, with a cock at the bottom of each, and a quantity of ſtraw within, to prevent its being ſtopped up. The nitrous earth is placed in theſe, together with wood-aſhes, or pot-aſh, either ſtrewed at top, or ſtratified with the other matter. The veſſels are then filled with hot water, which, after ſome time ſtanding, is drawn off, and freſh water added repeatedly, ſo long as any ſalt can be extracted by this means. This waſhing of the earth is repeated, by paſſing the ſaline liquor through freſh parcels, till it is ſtrongly impregnated. In this ſtate it is conveyed to the boiler, and great part of the water evaporated by heat. A conſiderable proportion of common ſalt, which the water obtains from the earth, is depoſited during the boiling, and taken out by means of a perforated ladle, while the nitre ſtill remains in ſolution. For the quantity of nitre that can be held in ſolution by boiling water is much greater than of common ſalt; therefore, the common ſalt will begin to be thrown down at a much earlier period of the evaporation than the nitre, and a conſiderable portion of the former will be thus ſeparated before any of the latter quits the ſolvent. When the liquor is ſufficiently concentrated by boiling, which is known by trials made with ſmall quantities taken out from time to time, it is conveyed into veſſels where it cools, and much of the nitre is then found in a cryſtallized ſtate.

F The ſeparation of the nitre from the common ſalt is much forwarded by another circumſtance, wherein their ſolubilities differ. Nitre being diſſolved to ſaturation in boiling water, will afford a large quantity of cryſtals by cooling; a proof that it is more ſoluble in hot than cold water: but common ſalt by the ſame treatment affords ſcarcely any. In the foregoing proceſs it is found, that on this account the cryſtals formed by cooling conſiſt almoſt entirely of nitre, the common ſalt remaining diſſolved in the water, notwithſtanding its change of temperature. And a repetition of the proceſs ſerves to purify the nitre ſtill more. With this intention, ſo much pure water is added to the nitrous cryſtals as is barely ſufficient to diſſolve them, and the evaporation by boiling is repeated. The cryſtals of nitre obtained by the ſecond cooling are much purer than before, becauſe the proportion of water to the common ſalt is greater, and conſequently leſs will cryſtallize with the nitre. For nice purpoſes this boiling with freſh water is repeated four times.

G If nitre be expoſed to a ſtrong heat in an earthen retort, a large quantity of air, much purer than that of the atmoſphere, is produced, and the alkaline baſe is left in combination with the earth of the retort, which it diſſolves. The weight of the air thus obtained, added to that of the alkaline baſe, amounts to the whole weight of the nitre made

uſe

H uſe of *. This fact is variouſly explained. The pure air is thought to conſiſt of the nitrous acid, deprived of water and phlogiſton, and united to heat in a latent ſtate; or of the nitrous acid perfectly ſaturated with phlogiſton; or of the water that entered into the formation of the nitre, and is ſuppoſed to be, by ſome means, dephlogiſticated; (148, M, N.) or of a certain principle common to all acids. For the production of pure or dephlogiſticated air, alſo takes place, when certain other ſalts which do not contain the nitrous acid are expoſed to heat.

I A moſt intenſe degree of combuſtion takes place when nitre is brought into contact with any inflammable body, either of the two being previouſly made red hot. This continues either till the whole of the nitrous acid is diſſipated, or the body conſumed, and is evidently owing to the pure air produced, which maintains the combuſtion. In the detonation of nitre with phlogiſtic bodies, water is produced, formerly termed the clyſſus of nitre, and moſt probably afforded by the combination of the inflammable air of the body conſumed with the dephlogiſticated air of the nitre, (148, N.)

K Gunpowder is uſually compoſed of 75 parts nitre, ſixteen charcoal, and nine ſulphur, intimately blended together, by long pounding in wooden mortars, with a ſmall quantity of water. Its effects are well known. Any part of a quantity of gunpowder being ſet on fire, the detonation begins, and

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* Berthollet, in the Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Paris, for the year 1781.

is propagated with amazing rapidity through the interſtices of the grains. In conſequence of which, a ſudden and very powerful expanſion of the materials takes place.

L Nitre, or nitrated vegetable alkali, contains thirty parts acid, ſixty-three alkali, and ſeven water. It requires about ſeven times its weight of water to diſſolve it in the temperature of 60°.

M If concentrated vitriolic acid be poured a little at a time on pure nitre, in a tubulated retort, with a large receiver, taking care immediately to cloſe the aperture, it will combine with the alkali, and the nitrous acid, called ſpirit of nitre in commerce, will riſe in fumes that will become condenſed in the receiver. After the ſpontaneous vapours have ceaſed, heat muſt be gradually applied, till nothing more will come over. Vitriolated tartar (173, 1) will remain in the retort, and if the acid in the receiver be added to pure vegetable alkali, it will again compoſe nitre.

N This nitrous acid is of a yellow colour; and continually emits red ſuffocating fumes. Theſe fumes ariſe from an exceſs of phlogiſton, which may be driven off, by haſtily boiling the acid in an open veſſel, when the acid becomes as clear as water. But the ſmalleſt addition of any inflammable matter, or even expoſure to the ſun's rays, will reſtore the former colour, and cauſe the acid to emit fumes as before.

O Nitrous acid of the ſhops is ſeldom without a mixture of the marine acid, which it obtains from the ſea-ſalt that cryſtallizes with the nitre made uſe of, (181, D.) This may be ſeparated by diſſolving ſilver in a ſmall quantity of the acid, and dropping gradually ſome of this ſolution into the acid required to be purified, as long as any cloudineſs appears. For the marine acid combines with the ſilver, and forms a compound that precipitates to the bottom, leaving the nitrous acid pure.

P The red vapour which riſes from the nitrous acid may be preſerved in cloſe veſſels, without condenſation by cold. It is called the aeriform nitrous acid. Water abſorbs it, which becomes ſucceſſively blue, green, and at laſt yellow, when it has received an increaſe of one-third of its bulk. This is termed the phlogiſticated nitrous acid.

O Experiments with the aeriform nitrous acid are rendered difficult, by the circumſtance of its acting on, and uniting with, every fluid hitherto uſed in attempting to confine it.

R When nitrous acid is applied to bodies containing phlogiſton, nitrous air is produced. This may be collected in water as well as quickſilver. The acid in nitrous air is ſo well ſaturated with phlogiſton, that it exhibits no marks of acidity when properly prepared. Water will imbibe one-tenth of its bulk of this air.

S The mixture of nitrous with reſpirable air affords a remarkable and intereſting appearance. Their union is attended with heat; a reddiſh brown cloud appears, and the ſum of the ſpaces occupied by both airs becomes much ſmaller than before. It T is found that their diminution is greater, the better adapted the reſpirable air is to the purpoſes of ſupporting animal life or combuſtion; and that the nitrous acid is precipitated, converting the water over which the operation is performed into nitrous acid. Theſe are natural conſequences of the ſtrong attraction of pure air to phlogiſton, by which it is vitiated, and rendered noxious in this proceſs.

Dr. Prieſtley, whoſe diſcoveries reſpecting aeriform fluids have deſervedly placed him in the higheſt rank of experimental philoſophers, uſually aſcertains the purity of air by adding an equal volume of nitrous air to it, and expreſſes the ſame by writing in figures the ſpace occupied by both after the diminution. Thus, if equal meaſures of common and nitrous air were diminiſhed on mixture by $\frac{7}{10}$ of a meaſure, he ſays the meaſure of the teſt is 1.3; which number denotes the reduced bulk of the air which was originally 2. But when the purity of dephlogiſticated air is to be aſcertained, he uſes more nitrous air, a ſingle meaſure not being ſufficient. The pureſt dephlogiſticated air will receive the addition of three times its own bulk of nitrous air before the ſpace it occupies is ſenſibly augmented.

The inſtruments uſed to determine the ſalubrity of air by this method are called eudiometers. In general, experiments may be made with a graduated tube A B, fig. 158, on which the ſpace occupied by the air after its diminution may be read by means of the diviſions.

The

W The nitrous acid, with the mineral alkali, forms nitrated mineral alkali, or quadrangular nitre, which contains thirty parts of acid, ſixty-three alkali, and ſeven water. Its properties are nearly the ſame as thoſe of the common, or priſmatic nitre, but it is leſs fit for making gunpowder, becauſe it attracts humidity from the air. About three times its weight of water at the temperature of 60° are ſufficient to hold it in ſolution.

X Nitrated volatile alkali, or nitrous ammoniac, contains forty-ſix parts acid, forty alkali, and fourteen water. This ſalt is remarkable for its property of detonating, without the contact of inflammable matter, when heated over the fire; which is one of the proofs that the volatile alkali contains phlogiſton.

Y Nitrated lime, or nitrous ſelenite, contains thirty-three parts acid, thirty-two earth, and thirty-five water. It is deliqueſcent.

Z With ponderous earth the nitrous acid forms a ſalt, whoſe cryſtals do not deliqueſce.

A Nitrated magneſia is a deliqueſcent ſalt, and contains thirty-ſix parts of acid, twenty-ſeven of magneſia, and thirty-ſeven of water.

B Nitrated clay appears to be of very difficult ſolution in cold water, and may contain 153 parts of acid to 100 of earth *.

C The nitrous acid diſſolves moſt metallic ſubſtances, part of the acid flying off with the phlogiſ-

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* Kirwan in Philoſ. Tranſ. for 1782.

ton, in the form of nitrous air, and the reſt in combination with the metallic calces, forming ſalt.

D The inflammation of oils, by the affuſion of the
nitrous acid, is a phenomenon that never fails to
excite the aſtoniſhment of the beholders. All the
oils obtained by diſtillation from vegetables, and
diſtinguiſhed by the name of eſſential oils, and alſo
ſuch other oils as are diſpoſed to become thick and
dry, by expoſure to the air, are proper for this ex-
E periment. An ounce of the oil intended to be ſet on
fire muſt be placed in a ſhallow veſſel, and a bottle
containing an ounce of the moſt concentrated ni-
trous acid muſt be faſtened at the end of a pole, that
the operator may be ſufficiently diſtant from the
inflammation. Two-thirds of the acid being poured
on the oil, excites a conſiderable ebullition; the oil
grows black and thick, and ſometimes inflames.
But if this laſt circumſtance does not happen in
four or five ſeconds, the remainder of the acid muſt
be poured where the mixture appears the moſt dry
and black, and then the inflammation ſcarcely ever
fails taking place.

F Fat oils may alſo be inflamed, if equal parts of the nitrous and vitriolic acids be firſt poured on them, and, when the ebullition is at the greateſt, a portion of nitrous acid be poured on the dryeſt part.

G The theory of this ſingular experiment is yet imperfect. There can be little doubt but the dephlogiſticated air of the nitrous acid (182, G) combining with the phlogiſton of the oil, produces the combuſtion (150. T, U.) But the other circumſtances relating to the capacities the new combinations in this proceſs may ſeverally have for heat, and on which the high temperature produced in a great meaſure depends, have not yet been ſufficiently inveſtigated. It is probably owing to theſe that eſſential oils are better adapted to this purpoſe than any other phlogiſtic bodies. The vitriolic acid may perhaps tend to concentrate the nitrous acid in the experiment with fat oils, or perhaps its action on the oils may bring them nearer to the nature of eſſential oils, at leaſt as far as relates to this proceſs.

CHAP. XI.

OF THE MARINE ACID, AND COMBINATIONS WHEREIN IT IS A PRINCIPAL PART.

THE marine acid is obtained from common H
ſalt. This ſalt, ſo univerſally uſed throughout the civilized parts of the world, is either dug
out of the earth in large maſſes, called rock-ſalt,
or obtained by evaporation from the waters of ſalt-ſprings, or of the ſea. Sea-water uſually contains I
between the twenty-fifth and thirtieth part of its
weight of this ſalt, together with other magneſian
or calcareous ſalts in much ſmaller quantities. In K
hot countries the water is evaporated ſo as to afford
the ſalt in cryſtals, by mere expoſure to the action
of

of the ſun and wind, in large receptacles, formed in
the ground near the ſea-ſide, and into which the
L water can be admitted at the tide of flood. In the
ſouth of France, and other parts of the world, they
collect and dry the ſea-ſand, from which a ſtrong
brine is afterwards obtained, by paſſing ſuch a
quantity of water through it, as is merely ſufficient
M to diſſolve the ſalt that adheres to the grains. The
intenſity of cold in northern countries is alſo made
uſe of for this purpoſe, where the ſea-water being
expoſed to freeze, the ice is found to conſiſt
almoſt entirely of freſh water, and conſequently,
upon being taken out, leaves the brine much
N ſtronger. In theſe laſt-mentioned caſes, as well
as in more temperate climates, the cryſtals are
obtained by boiling the brine in proper veſſels over
the fire.

O If the vitriolic acid be poured on ſea-ſalt, it
combines with the alkali (143, c) while the marine
acid flies off in the form of marine acid air. This
air is colourleſs, and permanently elaſtic when confined
by mercury, but has a ſtrong tendency to
unite with water. When it eſcapes into the atmoſphere
it has the appearance of white fumes, on
account of the moiſture it meets with, and unites
P to. The common marine acid conſiſts of water impregnated
with this air, which it readily gives out
on the application of heat.

Q In the method formerly uſed of procuring the marine
acid by diſtillation from common ſalt with the
vitriolic acid, much of the marine acid air was loſt,
for

ſor want of water to combine with. This is now remedied, by applying a ſecond receiver *, containing water, into which a tube, proceeding from the upper part of the firſt receiver, is immerſed. The marine acid air that eſcapes uncondenſed from the firſt receiver combines with the water in the ſecond, and converts it into ſtrong marine acid.

R The marine acid of the ſhops is of a light yellow colour, and continually emits ſuffocating fumes. The colour, however, is not eſſential to it, but ariſes from the ſolution of ſome impurities in the common proceſs for making it.

S Black mangane ſe is the calx of a ſemimetal, (170, A) which has a very ſtrong tendency to combine with phlogiſton. If four ounces of concentrated marine acid, with one ounce of this calx, be put into a tubulated retort, to which the apparatus of receivers uſed (190, Q) in diſtilling the marine acid has been previouſly adapted, yellow vapours are abundantly diſengaged, at firſt without the aſſiſtance of fire, and afterwards by means of heat. The water in the ſecond receiver becomes impregnated with theſe fumes, of which, however, it abſorbs a very ſmall quantity. If the temperature be near freezing, the elaſtic fluid, after ſaturating the water, takes a concrete form, and gradually ſubſides to the bottom: but a very ſlight degree of warmth raiſes this ſubſtance in the form of bubbles, which endeavour to eſcape.

T This vapour, combining with water, and having

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* The invention of Mr. Woulfe.

likewiſe a powerful action on mercury, has not been confined ſo as to retain its elaſtic ſtate.

v It is found to conſiſt of the marine acid*, deprived of one of its conſtituent parts, namely, phlogiſton. It attacks phlogiſtic bodies with great vehemence, and diſſolves all the metals directly, affording the ſame ſalts as the entire acid does, but without diſengaging any inflammable air. It whitens vegetables and wax, and produces in many ſubſtances changes ſimilar to ſuch as ariſe from long expoſure to air. When united to water, its taſte is auſtere, but not acid; but it regains all the properties of the marine acid when again combined with phlogiſton.

v A mixture of the nitrous and marine acids, or of the nitrous acid with common ſalt, or ſal ammoniac, is called aqua-regia, from its property of diſſolving gold. The power of this ſolvent on gold appears to conſiſt in the marine acid, which is dephlogiſticated by the nitrous, and is found alone in the cryſtals of ſalt produced in the combination of metallic calx and acid. There ſeems, however, to be ſome other circumſtance concerned here; for it is not eaſy to ſay why the nitrous acid alone cannot ſeize the gold, if its affinity to phlogiſton be greater than that of the dephlogiſticated marine acid; and if it were not ſo, how could it deprive this laſt acid of its phlogiſton?

w Salited mineral alkali, or common ſalt, contains thirty-three parts acid, fifty alkali, and ſeventeen water. Its cryſtals are quadrangular, and do not deliqueſce in the air.

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* According to Scheale: but Berthollet has rendered it probable, that it conſiſts of dephlogiſticated air, combined with the common marine acid.

Salited vegetable alkali, or ſalt of Sylvius, con- X
tains thirty parts acid, ſixty-three vegetable alkali, and ſeven water. It does not deliqueſce in the air, and is ſoluble in about three times its weight of water.

Salited volatile alkali, or common ſal ammoniac, Y
contains fifty-two parts acid, forty volatile alkali, and eight water. It diſſolves in about three and a half times its weight of water, at the temperature of 60°. By heat it ſublimes unaltered.

Salited lime, or marine ſelenite, contains about forty-two parts acid, thirty-eight earth, and twenty water. It deliqueſces in the air.

Salited ponderous earth is little known; its ſolu- Z
tion affords a valuable method of purifying the marine acid from the vitriolic, with which it is often adulterated. For, upon the addition of this to the marine acid under examination, the vitriolic acid, if preſent, ſeizes the ponderous earth, and forms the vitriolated ponderous earth, which being nearly inſoluble, falls to the bottom *. The exact quantity neceſſary to be added is known by trials on ſmall portions of the acid.

Salited magneſia, or marine Epſom, is a deli- A
queſcent ſalt, found in greater quantity in the water of the ſea than any other, except common ſalt.

Salited clay is a deliqueſcent ſalt, and may con- B
tain 174 parts acid, to 100 of earth.

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* Withering in Philoſ. Tranſ. Part II. for 1784.

C The arsenic acid acts directly on, and combines with tin, lead, copper, iron, zinc, and bismuth, and with the other metals, by proper management, forming salts, poſſeſſed of various properties.

CHAP. XII.

CONCERNING THE ACIDS OF FLUOR, OF BORAX, OF AMBER, AND OF PHOSPHORUS.

D FUSIBLE ſpar or fluor, better known in England by the name of Derbyſhire ſpar, conſiſts of a peculiar acid, called the ſparry acid, combined with calcareous earth and water. This ſpar is either tranſparent or opake, of different colours, and generally has a cubic, rhomboidal or polygonal figure. Moſt ſpecimens, eſpecially the coloured, have the property of becoming phoſphoreſcent, or emitting light when heated far below ignition, as may be done by laying them on a hot iron; but they loſe this property by being made red hot. It does not ſtrike fire with ſteel, nor efferveſce with acids. The calcareous earth is fifty-ſeven parts in the hundred, and the reſt acid and water.

E If an equal weight of concentrated pure colourleſs vitriolic acid be poured, by means of a tube, on pulverized fluor, in a retort, a decompoſition of the fluor takes place with heat. The vitriolic acid ſeizes the calcareous earth, and the fluor acid eſcapes in the form of air, of a moſt penetrating ſmell, which may be confined by mercury, but unites with a very conſiderable quantity. If F the acid be wanted in a fluid ſtate, it is neceſſary to adapt a receiver, containing water, about ten or twelve times the weight of the ſpar. This acid, G eſpecially when heated, and in the aerial form, diſſolves, and retains ſiliceous earth, which it takes from the glaſs-veſſels during the diſtillation, ſoon corroding them through, if they be not very thick. The fluor acid air depoſits ſome of this earth by cooling; and the greateſt part in the form of a white cruſt on the ſurface of water, when it combines with that fluid.

The ſaline combinations formed by uniting this H acid with alkali, earths, or metallic calces, clearly ſhew that it is a peculiar acid, as different in its properties from all other acids as they are from each other.

Borax is a ſalt, imported from the Eaſt Indies, I in the form of hexangular, or irregularly figured cryſtals, of a dull white, or greeniſh colour, and greaſy to the touch. In this ſtate it is called tincal. It is dug out of the earth in the kingdom of Thibet, in a cryſtallized ſtate. The impurities are ſeparated by ſolution, filtration, and cryſtallization.

This ſalt requires about eighteen times its K weight of water to diſſolve it in the temperature of 60°. When heated, it ſwells up, loſes its water of cryſtallization, and runs into a kind of glaſs, which may be again diſſolved in water. It is chiefly uſed as a flux for ſoldering metals.

L The component parts of purified borax are, ſeventeen parts of mineral alkali, thirty-four of a peculiar acid called the acid of borax, or ſedative ſalt, and forty-ſeven of water. In this combination not more than about five parts of the alkali are really ſaturated; for which reaſon, borax in many caſes acts as an alkali.

M If borax be diſſolved to ſaturation in water, and the vitriolic acid be added, this laſt will combine with the alkali, and diſengage the ſedative ſalt, which will ſwim at the ſurface, in the form of white ſcales. The filtered liquor will yield vitriolated mineral alkali, or Glauber's ſalt. This acid is alſo obtained by ſublimation; the alkaline baſe being ſeparated by the previous addition of ſome ſtronger acid.

N The acid of borax requires fifty times its weight of water to hold it in ſolution. Its acid properties when uncombined are but weakly manifeſted. A moderate heat melts it with leſs intumeſcence than borax, but the glaſs ſo formed is again ſoluble in water. This fixed acid may be uſed for the ſame purpoſe as borax, and is a moſt uſeful flux in experiments to be made with the blow-pipe. It has been found uncombined in the waters of certain lakes in Tuſcany.

O Amber is a ſubſtance dug out of the earth more abundantly in the Pruſſian dominions than

elſewhere. The moſt valuable ſpecimens are of
a clear tranſparent yellow. Its origin is probably
from the vegetable kingdom, as it is almoſt
always found in the neighbourhood of foſſil wood.
By diſtillation an acetous liquor, an oil, and a P
concrete acid, are obtained; which laſt may be
ſomewhat purified by ſolution and cryſtallization.
The combinations of this with alkalis, earths, or
metals, denote it to be a peculiar acid.

Phoſphorus (170, Y) till lately has been obtained Q
by diſtillation from urine only, the water,
and other more volatile parts, having been previouſly
diſſipated by heat in an open veſſel. Towards
the end of this proceſs, which requires a
ſtrong fire of ſeveral hours continuance, the
phoſphorus comes over, conſiſting of phlogiſton,
combined with the phoſphoric acid, and paſſes
into the receiver, containing water. But it is R
now known, that the phoſphoric acid exiſts not
only in all the ſolid parts of animals as well as
in urine, but alſo in vegetables, and is found in
the mineral kingdom, combined with lead, and
with iron. The fixed parts of the bones of animals S
is found to contain this acid, united to calcareous earth.

If the bones of animals be burned in the fire, till T
they have become white, they are in a proper ſtate to
afford the phoſphoric acid. Three parts by weight
of this matter in powder may be gradually added
to two parts of concentrated vitriolic acid, and
afterwards about five parts of water. This mixture

muſt be left to digeſt for a day, water being added occaſionally to ſupply what evaporates, at the end of which time more water muſt be plentifully added, and the liquid ſtrained through a fine ſieve. What remains in the ſieve is gypſum, or vitriolated lime. The liquor, by evaporation to dryneſs, leaves a reſidue, conſiſting in a great meaſure of the phoſphoric acid, which has been diſengaged from its calcareous baſe by the vitriolic acid. This reſidue, urged by a ſtrong heat, flows into a kind of glaſs of a whitiſh ſemiopake appearance. It is not, however, neceſſary, for the making of phoſphorus, to carry the evaporation farther than till the matter has acquired the conſiſtence of ſyrup; which may be conveniently performed in a copper veſſel.

Equal parts of this liquid, and of charcoal in powder, mixed together, afford phoſphorus by diſtillation in a good earthen retort (132, e). The receiver muſt be half filled with water, and muſt have a ſmall hole pierced in its upper part, to let the elaſtic vapors eſcape; or, inſtead of a receiver, the neck of the retort may ſimply be plunged in water contained in an open baſon. When the retort is red-hot, the phoſphorus will enter the receiver in drops, which ceaſing, the whole apparatus muſt be ſuffered to cool. The phoſphorus, which is in ſmall maſſes, reſembling reddiſh wax, or tallow, muſt be preſſed together under water, particular care being taken that none remains ſticking to the hands or under the nails, as a ſmall particle, taking fire when brought into the air, in ſuch a caſe, might be attended with very diſagreeable conſequences. It may be moulded into ſticks, by putting the pieces under water into ſmall upright tubes of glaſs, rather conical, and ſtopped at the lower end; and on heating the water, the phoſphorus will melt and take the deſired forms. The impurities that riſe to the upper ends of the tubes, may be cut off when taken out of the water, which muſt not be done till all is cool; or, it may be had exceedingly pure by ſtraining it through a leather bag immerſed in hot water. But the beſt method of clearing phoſphorus from the impurities of the firſt diſtillation is to diſtil it again with a very gentle heat.

v To prevent the decompoſition of phoſphorus, it muſt be kept in a bottle with water ſufficient to cover it.

w The phoſphoric acid may be had combined with water, by placing ſticks of ſolid phoſphorus in a glaſs funnel, inſerted in the neck of a bottle containing water. A piece of glaſs tube, inſerted in the neck of the funnel, will prevent the ſticks from falling through. In this ſituation, if the temperature be moderately warm, the phoſphorus will be gradually decompoſed by the ſlow combuſtion (170, Y), and afford its acid to the water. The acid thus obtained is phlogiſticated, but becomes gradually leſs ſo by expoſure to the air.

x Heat drives off the water from the phoſphoric acid, ſo as to convert it into a ſolid tranſparent ſubſtance of an acid taſte, which deliqueſces by attracting

attracting the moiſture of the atmoſphere, and diſſolves in water, at the ſame time producing heat.

Y When urine is brought to the conſiſtence of ſyrup by evaporation, a ſalt is obtained in cryſtals, called fuſible ſalt of urine, or microcoſmic ſalt, at firſt vitiated by an addition of extractive matter and common ſalt; but which may be purified by ſubſequent ſolution, filtration, and cryſtallization. This ſalt conſiſts of the phoſphoric acid, combined in part with the volatile alkali, and in part with the mineral alkali. If microcoſmic ſalt be expoſed to heat, the volatile alkali is driven off, while the phoſphoric acid and mineral alkali remain fixed, and fuſe together into a glaſs that affords phoſphorus by diſtillation with charcoal (198, y.).

Z The mineral alkali in this glaſs prevents a conſiderable portion of the acid from being converted into phoſphorus, forming with it a compound, which has the properties of an acid. In this ſtate it is convertible into glaſs by the action of heat, and effloreſces by expoſure to the atmoſphere. It is ſoluble in leſs than twice its weight of hot water, and cryſtallizes by cooling. Bones afford it as well as urine.

CHAP. XIII.

OF THE ACIDS OF SUGAR, OF SORREL, OF LEMONS, OF BENZOIN, OF MILK, OF SUGAR OF MILK, OF ANTS, OF FAT, AND OF PRUSSIAN BLUE.

SUGAR is a ſaline ſubſtance, obtained from a moſt, if not all, nutritive vegetable ſubſtances, but moſt plentifully, or at leaſt moſt uſually, from the ſugar-cane, which is cultivated in the warmer climates for that purpoſe. In the ſettlements of the Europeans the cane is cruſhed, by paſſing it between wooden rollers, which compreſs it to ſuch a degree, that the vegetable fibres paſs through, leaving moſt of the juices behind, which run into veſſels, or troughs, properly placed to receive and conduct them to the boilers. The addition of alkaline ley and lime-water is neceſſary to the cryſtallization of the ſugar, which takes place in conſequence of the evaporation by boiling. Repeated ſolutions, and boiling in lime-water and ley, with the addition of oxes blood, or whites of eggs, for the purpoſe of ſeparating the impurities in the form of ſkum, render the ſugar more white and pure. The inſpiſſated liquor, containing the ſugar, is poured into conical earthen moulds, where it cryſtallizes, and the treacle is let out, by drawing a plug from an aperture in the bottom. A ſtill greater degree of purification is obtained by ſpreading an argillaceous paſte over the top of the ſugar, great part of the remaining treacle being carried down by the moiſture that ſlowly penetrates the maſs.

B A very ſlow cooling of a ſolution of ſugar, in a heated room, cauſes it to ſhoot into large cryſtals, called ſugar candy. In other caſes the cryſtals are ſmall and irregular.

C The analyſis of this ſalt is yet imperfect. By diſtillation alone it affords acid and an empyreumatic oil, leaving a conſiderable reſidue. The ſalt called acid of ſugar, is, however, obtained by another proceſs.

D Let three ounces of ſtrong nitrous acid, whoſe ſpecific gravity is nearly 1.567, be mixed in a tubulated retort, with one ounce of the fineſt ſugar in powder, to which, after the ſolution is completed, and the moſt phlogiſticated part of the nitrous acid ſlown off, let a receiver be adapted, and the liquid gently boiled. As ſoon as it has acquired a dark brown color, three ounces more of nitrous acid muſt be added, and the boiling continued till the coloured ſmoking acid has entirely diſappeared. The liquor in the retort muſt then be poured out into a larger veſſel, and will by cooling afford ſmall quadrilateral cryſtals, which, collected and dried on bibulous paper, weigh 109 grains. The remaining lixivium boiled again in the retort, with two ounces of nitrous acid, affords 43 grains of cryſtals by cooling. Nitrous acid, in the whole amounting to two ounces, being added, by ſmall portions at a time, to the glutinous liquid remaining from the laſt cryſtals, and then evaporated to dryneſs, a ſaline maſs is obtained, which contains about fifteen grains of cryſtals. All theſe products, but more particularly the laſt, require to be depurated by repeated ſolutions and cryſtalliſations in pure water.

Neither the quantities nor the ſtrength of the E nitrous acid uſed in procuring theſe cryſtals need be nicely attended to; but the quantities obtained will be conſiderably diminiſhed, if the boiling be continued after the vapors have diſappeared.

It is concluded that in this proceſs the nitrous F acid does nothing more than combine with, and carry off, the oily part of the ſugar, by that means leaving the acid diſengaged. Theſe cryſtals are therefore called the acid of ſugar, or ſaccharine acid. They have an exceedingly pungent taſte, but excite an agreeable ſenſation on the tongue, when diluted with water. Vegetable blues, indigo excepted, are reddened by this acid, and it powerfully attacks and combines with alkalis, earths, and various metals, forming compounds that ſufficiently diſtinguiſh it from every other acid. Boiling water diſſolves its own weight of the cryſtals, but at 60° it will take up no more than half that quantity.

The ſaccharine acid effloreſces in a heat greater G than 60°. It may be ſublimed by fire, though not without alteration. Repeated ſublimation deſtroys io; during which a great quantity of aerial acid and inflammable air are extricated.

H The affinity of this acid to lime is greater than that of any other acid; the compound thus formed is inſoluble in water, and can only be decompoſed by fire. Hence the uſe of lime in cauſing ſugar to cryſtallize. The native juice has a ſuperabundance of acid that prevents cryſtallization; but this impediment is removed by the lime, which combining with it, is either carried off in the

I ſkum, or ſinks to the bottom. Hence alſo the ſaccharine acid affords one of the niceſt and moſt certain teſts to diſcover lime in waters.

K Salt of ſorrel conſiſts of the vegetable alkali ſuperſaturated with a peculiar acid. If the abundant acid be ſaturated with volatile alkali, and a nitrous ſolution of ponderous earth be added, decompoſitions and new combinations take place by double affinity. The nitrous acid ſeizes the volatile alkali, while the acid of ſorrel, uniting with the ponderous earth, forms a compound, that, on account of its difficulty of ſolution, falls to the bottom. The ſediment being waſhed, and placed in pure water, may be again decompoſed by vitriolic acid, which forms marmor metallicum (175, N) with the earth. The diſengaged acid of ſorrel may be poured off. It is deſtructible by fire.

L If the juice of lemon be boiled to the conſiſtence of ſyrup, the vapors that fly off are not at all acid, but the reſidue will not afford cryſtals.

A quantity of pulverized chalk being added to ſaturation to boiling lemon-juice, combines with the diſengaged acid, and forms a compound, which, becauſe very ſparingly ſoluble in water, is precipitated. The ſaponaceous and mucilaginous matter of the juice remains in the ſupernatant fluid, and muſt be decanted from the precipitate; lukewarm water being repeatedly poured on this laſt till it comes off colourleſs. To decompoſe the precipitate, ſtrong oil of vitriol, equal in weight to the chalk made uſe of, but diluted with ten times its bulk of water, muſt be added. The mixture, after a few minutes boiling, will contain the vitriolic acid united to the lime in the form of gypſum, (174, M) and the acid of lemon diſengaged in the water. Filtration or decantation will ſeparate the gypſum, and the acid of lemon may be obtained in cryſtals by evaporating the water. The cryſtallization, however, will not take place, if, for want of ſtrength, or a due quantity of vitriolic acid, there be left any lime in the ſolution. This may be known by adding a ſmall quantity of vitriolic acid to the ſolution when evaporated to the conſiſtence of thin ſyrup. If any precipitation takes place, more vitriolic acid muſt be added; and this laſt acid, if ſuperfluous in quantity, will be found in the reſiduum after cryſtallization. The acid of lemons, by digeſtion with ſpirit of wine and water, is converted into vinegar.

The ſaponaceous matter, decanted off after the addition of chalk to the lemon juice, may be con-

verted into acid of ſugar by treatment with nitrous
o acid, but the acid of lemons cannot. It therefore
appears, that lemons contain two acids, namely
the acid of lemons, diſengaged, and the acid of
ſugar, in combination with oily or mucilaginous
matter. Beſides this, a ſmall quantity of vege-
table alkali is found, which ſhews itſelf by form-
ing tartar, when the tartareous acid is dropped into
lemon juice, and ſuffered to ſtand ſome days.

p The fragrant reſin, called benzoin, or benjamin, affords a concrete acid in the form of ſlender ſpiculæ, by ſublimation, either in cloſed veſſels, or by adapting a long paper-funnel to an earthen-pot, containing the benzoin in fuſion over the fire. This acid may be obtained in a ſtate of greater purity by careful boiling in powder with lime-water. The lime unites with the acid; and upon the addition of marine acid, the acid of benzoin, which is ſcarcely ſoluble in cold water, falls to the bottom, while the muriated lime remains in ſolution. The acid of benzoin is deſtructible by heat, and when ſet on fire continues to burn with a bright yellow flame. It is readily ſoluble in ardent ſpirit, even in the cold.

Q Milk in a ſhort time grows ſour and thick during ſummer. By filtration and evaporation the curds may be ſeparated; and the whey is found to contain an eſſential ſalt, animal earth, or phoſphorated lime, (197, s) ſugar of milk, a ſmall portion of ſalited vegetable alkali, (193, x) and ſome mucilaginous matter. The whey being evaporated to one-eighth, for the more effectual ſeparation of the curds and then ſtrained, the acid is to be ſaturated with lime. The phoſphorated lime is by this means precipitated, becauſe deprived of the exceſs of acid that before rendered it ſoluble; but the acid of milk, forming a ſoluble compound with the lime, ſtill remains ſuſpended: the former is therefore ſeparable by filtration. A ſolution of the acid of ſugar being added, ſeizes the lime (204, H) and leaves the acid of milk again uncombined. Spirit of wine diſſolves this acid, but none of the other ſubſtances that remain in the whey. Evaporate the water, which would impede the action of the ſpirit by diluting it; and when the maſs is of the conſiſtence of honey, add the ſpirit. To this acid ſolution, after filtering, add pure water. Diſtillation will carry off the ſpirit, and leave in the retort pure acid of milk, diſſolved in water. The acid of milk yields no cryſtals, and when evaporated to dryneſs, deliqueſces again. It is deſtructible by fire, affording water, a weak acid, aerial acid, inflammable air, and coal. It exceeds vinegar in attractive power, and appears to be an incomplete vinegar, for want of a ſufficient quantity of ardent ſpirit. For, if a ſmall proportion of ardent ſpirit be added to milk, the fermentation becomes more perfect, and vinegar is produced inſtead of this acid: and, in addition to this, the acid of milk, with the addition of ardent ſpirit, is converted into vinegar after a month's digeſtion.

By evaporating whey to the conſiſtence of ſyrup, a ſweet ſalt is obtained in cryſtals, called ſugar of milk, which may be purified by ſubſequent ſolution, and cryſtallization in water. In ſimple diſtillation its products are nearly the ſame as thoſe of ſugar; but when treated with nitrous acid (202, B) it affords fifteen and one-half parts in the hundred of ſaccharine acid, and about twenty-three and a half of another acid, only found in ſugar of milk. This laſt is in the form of a white powder. Sixty parts of boiling water diſſolve one of this acid, and, on cooling, about one-fourth part of the powder ſeparates in the form of very ſmall cryſtals. It is decompoſed by fire.

u When an ant-hill is ſtirred with a ſtick, the enraged inſects emit an acid, which may be perceived to be ſuch, both from its ſmell and taſte. Water, or ardent ſpirit, in which they are agitated, becomes acid. In the proceſs with ſpirit, part of the acid ariſes in diſtillation with the ſpirit, but the greater part remains united with the phlegm in the retort. Freſh ants afford by diſtillation, without addition, near half their weight of acid. This, like all the acids of vegetables, is reſolvable by heat into aerial acid, and inflammable air.

v The acid of fat is obtained by repeated diſtillations of that ſubſtance.

w Pruſſian blue is a beautiful pigment, well known in the arts. It is produced by the union of calx of iron, with a peculiar acid. The proceſs for making it is as follows: Calcine equal parts of vegetable fixed alkali, and dried bullocks blood, till it ceaſes to emit either flame or ſmoke; then raiſe [illegible] ſo as to give the maſs a low red heat. Throw the matter red-hot into as many quarts of water as there were pounds of the original mixture, and boil it for half an hour. Decant this liquid, and waſh the coaly reſidue with more water, till it comes off almoſt inſipid. Add this laſt water to the former, and boil the whole till it is again reduced to the former number of quarts. This is the lixivium x ſanguinis, or pruſſian alkali; which, if added in proper quantity to a ſolution of iron, precipitates it partly in the form of a calx, and partly in the form of pruſſian blue. The marine acid being poured on this precipitate after edulcoration, diſſolves the calx, and leaves the pruſſian blue much purer. The method of combining the alkali with the pruſſian acid by calcination does not ſaturate the whole; for which reaſon part of the iron is thrown down in a calciform ſtate by that portion of the alkali which affords no pruſſian acid. But for y chemical purpoſes the pruſſian ley is produced by boiling the alkali in pruſſian blue ready formed. The calx of iron is thus deprived of the pruſſian acid by the alkali, to which it has a greater affinity, and which it only quits when there is another acid preſent to unite with the alkali, as in the juſt-mentioned inſtance of the ſolution of iron, where a double affinity takes place. The pruſſian alkali z prepared in either way contains ſome iron. It can be had pure in no other way than by directly combining the pure pruſſian acid with a pure alkali.

A Pruſſian alkali, boiled in a retort, with weak vitriolic acid, emits the pruſſian acid in an aerial inflammable form, which may be abſorbed by water placed in the receiver. But as a portion of vitriolic acid comes over likewiſe, a ſecond diſtillation is neceſſary, with the addition of chalk. The vitriolic acid by this means forming gypſum, is detained, while the pruſſian acid paſſes over totally, before one-fourth of the water is diſtilled off. It is not therefore neceſſary to continue the diſtillation beyond that period.

B This acid is found to conſiſt of aerial acid, volatile alkali and phlogiſton. If equal parts of pulverized charcoal and vegetable alkali be made red-hot for a quarter of an hour in a crucible, and ſome ſal ammoniac, in ſmall pieces, be then briſkly ſtirred down into the maſs, the ammoniacal vapours will ſoon ceaſe. The ignited matter being thrown into water, affords a lixivium equal to the beſt that is made with blood.

C A ſolution of the ſaturated pruſſian alkali is a valuable precipitant for diſcovering iron in liquids; no other ſubſtance forming pruſſian blue.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

OF FERMENTATION, AND THE AERIAL, TARTAREOUS AND ACETOUS ACIDS.

D WHEN animal or vegetable ſubſtances have their organization by any means ſo far impaired as to be no longer capable of performing the offices to which they were adapted, life ceaſes, and, unleſs the temperature and drineſs of the ſurrounding medium be ſuch as either quickly to evaporate all the moiſture, and more volatile parts, or to fix the whole maſs by congelation, certain chemical proceſſes take place ſpontaneouſly, by means of which both the fluid and ſolid parts loſe their former arrangement and compoſition, at the ſame time that new combinations are formed. E This act of change is called fermentation, and is properly diſtinguiſhed into three ſtages, namely, the vinous or ſpirituous, the acetous, and the putrefactive fermentations.

F It is generally underſtood, that the vinous fermentation does not take place except where ſugar is preſent. The temperature moſt favourable to this fermentation is between thirty-ſix and ninety degrees; and the principal phenomena are theſe. The liquor becomes opake, and warm. Aerial acid riſes in minute bubbles from all parts. Mucilage is ſeparated; part ſubſiding to the bottom,

and part being carried to the top by the fixed
air. For a certain time theſe appearances increaſe,
but afterwards diminiſh, and at length totally
ceaſe; the fluid has then a pungent ſpirituous
taſte, inſtead of the ſweetneſs it had before: its
ſpecific gravity is conſiderably leſs; and it affords
H ardent ſpirit by diſtillation. The quantity of
ardent ſpirit afforded by any fermented liquid is
thought [*] to be in proportion to the diminution
its ſpecific gravity undergoes by fermentation;
whether this be true or no, has not yet been
proved by experiments; but it is highly pro-
bable that an attention to this diminution will
afford the manufacturer ſome method of eſtimat-
ing the ſtrength of beer, wine, and other liquors
of the like nature.

I If the liquid in this ſtate be confined in cloſe veſſels, the fermentation continues, but with extreme ſlowneſs; an acid ſalt, called tartar, is depoſited, and the taſte of the liquor becomes milder, and more agreeable.

K But if the fermentative proceſs be ſuffered to go on in open veſſels, more eſpecially if the temperature be raiſed to 90°, the ſecond ſtage, or acetous fermentation, comes on, air is emitted, the maſs grows warm, and mucilage is depoſited: the inteſtine motion at length ceaſes, and the liquid becomes clear: it is then vinegar, and may be had purer by diſtillation. Ardent ſpirit is no longer found in the liquid, but the vinegar, when ſufficiently concentrated, is itſelf inflammable.

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[*] Richardſon on Brewing. London, 1784.

The crude vinegar may be kept in well cloſed L
veſſels; but if it be ſuffered to continue in the open veſſels, it gradually loſes its acidity, becomes viſcid and foul; emits air; ſtinks; volatile alkali flies off; an earthy ſediment is depoſited, and the remaining liquid is mere water. This is the third ſtage.

The three ſtages of fermentation are never in- M
verted in their order; that is to ſay, bodies that have paſſed the ſpirituous fermentation proceed to the acetous, and afterwards to the putrefactive proceſs, and cannot again be ſubjected to either, after paſſing it. Bodies that begin to be deſtroyed by the acetous fermentation proceed afterwards to the putrefactive, but are incapable of the vinous proceſs. And ſuch bodies as immediately putrefy cannot be made to undergo either of the other
ſtages. Some are of opinion that all vegetable or N
animal bodies, which are deſtroyed by ſpontaneous decompoſition, undergo the complete fermentative proceſs, but that the duration of one or more of the three ſtages is too ſhort to admit of their being properly diſtinguiſhed by obſervation.

The aerial acid, or fixed air, is not only pro- O
duced in fermentation, but is found in mines, caverns, or wells, or combined with water or earths (155, F, G, 162, B), and is beſides produced in various chemical proceſſes. Its ſpecific gravity being about one and a half time that of atmoſpherical air, cauſes it to lodge in the lower parts

of mines, where it is called choke damp. Its preſence is firſt obſerved by the extinction or imperfect burning of the lights of the miners. Pure fixed air is inſtantly fatal to animals that breathe P it. The atmoſphere always contains ſome of this acid. Lime-water is the niceſt teſt for diſcovering it; the lime being rendered mild and precipitated (161, z). The immenſe quantity of this air, which is diſcharged by the vinous fermentation in breweries, affords opportunities of making the more obvious experiments in a very eaſy and ſtriking manner. For the ſtratum of air that covers the fermenting liquor is about ten or twelve inches deep, or more, accordingly as the horizontal ſection of the veſſel is higher above the ſurface of the liquor. Candles plunged in this body of air are inſtantly extinguiſhed, and the ſmoke remaining in the fixed air renders its ſurface viſible. Agitation throws it into waves. Water in a diſh, immerſed in the fixed air, and ſtirred briſkly, ſoon receives a ſtrong impregnation and lively taſte. This aerial fluid may be dipped into, and brought out in a jar, like any other fluid which is denſer than air, and does not readily mix with Q it. Nothing can be more ſingular than the experiments made by pouring this air out of one veſſel into another. A candle becoming immediately extinct; an animal expiring in a few ſeconds, or an alkali cryſtallizing, when included in the veſſel that receives the fixed air at the ſame time that the ſight cannot perceive any thing that is poured.

The tartar that ſeparates from wines during the R
ſlow fermentation (212, 1), conſiſts of the vege-
table alkali united to a peculiar acid. When puri-
fied by ſolution and cryſtallization, it is in com-
merce called cream of tartar. The acid in cream
of tartar is more than ſufficient to ſaturate the
alkali. At a moderate temperature, this ſalt re-
quires about one hundred and fifty parts of water
for its ſolution. This ſmall degree of ſolubility S
in tartar is wonderful, when it is conſidered that
the acid, or the alkali ſingly, or even the neutral
ſalt produced by perfect ſaturation of each, are very
ſoluble.

T The moſt convenient method of procuring the acid of tartar is, to add dry powdered chalk, by ſmall portions at a time, to one hundred parts of the ſalt diſſolved in boiling water, in a tin veſſel. About twenty-eight parts will be required before the efferveſcence ceaſes. At this period the liquid muſt be decanted, and will afford, by evaporation, fifty parts of the perfectly neutral ſalt, called ſoluble tartar, or tartarized vegetable alkali. The remaining powder conſiſts of tartarized lime, and weighs one hundred and three. On this waſhed powder let thirty parts of the ſtrongeſt vitriolic acid, firſt diluted with two hundred and ſeventy parts of water, be gradually poured. After twelve hours digeſtion, the mixture being frequently ſtirred with a wooden ſpatula, the clear liquor may be poured off, and conſiſts of the acid of tartar diſſolved in water. The vitriolic acid remains combined with the lime in the form of gypſum. To diſcover whether the ſolution contains any vitriolic acid, a drop or two of a weak ſolution of ſugar of lead (which conſiſts of the calx of lead united to vinegar) may be added. A white ſediment falls, of vitriolated lead, if that acid be preſent, but if not, of tartarized lead. It may be eaſily known by the affuſion of ſtrong vinegar on the precipitate, which of the two acids enter into its compoſition: for tartarized lead will diſappear by ſolution, but vitriolated lead will not. If the gypſeous reſidue contain any tartarized lime, it may be known by throwing a portion on hot coals, in which caſe the powder will grow black, and emit a ſmell of ſpirit of tartar. After filtration and evaporation to the conſiſtence of ſyrup, the ſolution of tartareous acid affords cryſtals. The quantity of acid weighs thirty-four, when the evaportion is carried to dryneſs.

u Certain vegetables, that have not undergone fermentation, likewiſe contain the tartareous acid.

v By digeſtion with water and ardent ſpirit, this acid is converted into vinegar. In the fire it grows black, and affords a ſpongy coal, which contracts much, and grows white by ignition. By diſtillation it affords phlegm, ſcarcely acid, with ſome oil, and leaves an earthy reſidue, neither acid nor alkaline. It is not convertible into ſaccharine acid by treatment with nitrous acid.

w Crude vinegar may be rendered much ſtronger by expoſing it to the froſt. The water freezes

alone, and leaves the acid greatly concentrated; the water exceeding the acid that remains three or four times in quantity, or more, according to the intenſity of the cold. This proceſs renders the vinegar much leſs diſpoſed to the putrid fermentation. For this laſt purpoſe, however, it may x
be of importance to obſerve, that boiling for a ſhort time, either prevents the putrid fermentation from coming on, or at leaſt retards it very much. Common vinegar, after ſuch boiling, will keep for ſeveral years *.

By diſtillation of crude vinegar the acid is ob- y
tained in that ſtate of purity in which it is called the acetous acid. It is then no longer ſuſceptible of the putrid fermentation. Like the other acids, it acts on alkalis, earths, and metals, with which it forms compounds diſtinctive of its own peculiar nature.

The acetous acid may be had very ſtrong by z
diſtillation from cryſtals of verdigris, which is a ſalt conſiſting of copper combined with the acetous acid. It is then called radical vinegar.

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* Scheele's Eſſays.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

OF THE ALKALIS.

a NEITHER the vegetable fixed alkali, nor any of the ſalts containing it, are found in conſiderable quantity in the mineral kingdom. b It is procured by burning vegetable ſubſtances in the open air, the ſalt being obtained from their aſhes by elixiviating them in water, and evaporating the clean ſolution to dryneſs. The crude or unrefined alkali, procured from wood-aſhes, is called pot-aſh. It is imported from the northern parts of Europe, where wood is cheap, and contains about half its weight of common ſalt, in the ſtate in which it is uſually retailed in London. An addition made doubtleſs with a view to fraudulent profit. c Pot-aſh may be rendered purer by ſolution in water and boiling. As the water evaporates, the common ſalt will cryſtallize and ſubſide, and the lye may be poured off at various times. The greater part of any ſalts it may contain are thus ſeparated, after which the alkali may be dried, and placed on an inclined plane of glaſs, in a damp place. The pureſt part of the alkali will attract the humidity of the air, and run off in a liquid form into any receptacle placed for that purpoſe.

d There is not, however, any method ſufficiently eaſy to render the fixed alkali of pot-aſh pure enough for nice chemical purpoſes, more eſpecially as this ſalt may be had, without much trouble, from nitre or tartar. If the fineſt priſmatic nitre be deflagrated with charcoal (183, 1.) the acid flies off, and the alkali remains in a mild ſtate, and very pure. For this purpoſe the nitre muſt be made red hot, in a crucible much larger than is ſufficient to contain it, and a ſmall quantity of groſsly powdered charcoal muſt be added. The inflammation inſtantly takes place, and continues till all the charcoal is conſumed. More coal muſt then be added, and the ſame repeated till no farther detonation happens; care being taken to raiſe the heat towards the end of the proceſs, ſo as to keep the alkali in fuſion, leſt it ſhould cover and protect the remaining nitre from the contact of the coal. This is called fixed nitre, though there is no difference between the ſpecimens of vegetable fixed alkali, when well prepared, whatever ſubject it may have been originally obtained from.

The vegetable alkali of tartar is very pure, and preferred by chemiſts to any other. The tartar is wrapped in wet brown paper, and the parcels are placed in beds or ſtrata, alternately with beds of charcoal in a furnace. The whole is then ſet on fire, and the fire continued till the blackening ſmoke ceaſes to riſe. If the heat be too intenſe, the alkali will melt, and mix with the impurities of the coal; but when the proceſs is well conducted, the parcels of ſalt may be taken out entire. By elixiviation in pure water, with filtration,

tion, evaporation, drying, and calcining, for a conſiderable time, with a low heat, the mild alkali is obtained very pure and white.

H Equal parts of tartar and groſsly powdered
N nitre, detonated together, afford a very good vegetable alkali; the acid of the tartar abounding
O with ſufficient phlogiſton to decompoſe the nitre.
When ſmall quantities of this are prepared at once, it generally happens that the decompoſition is not entirely completed, ſo that nitre and tartar remain mixed with the alkali; a circumſtance of no conſequence in the principal uſe to which this alkali is applied, namely, to bring earthy matters into fuſion by fire. It is called white flux.

I For ſome operations this mixture of nitre and tartar are made uſe of without previous detonation. In this ſtate it is called crude flux.

K Two parts of tartar, and one of nitre being detonated together, produce an alkali abounding with tartar and coally matter. It is of uſe in ſuch fuſions as require phlogiſton to be afforded, as in the fuſion or reduction of metals. It is called black or reducing flux.

L The vegetable alkali attracts the moiſture of the air, and does not cryſtallize, unleſs combined with the aerial, or ſome other acid.

M The mineral fixed alkali exiſts in vaſt quantities in the common ſalt of the ocean, or ſalt ſprings, or in rock ſalt (189, K.) It is ſometimes found combined with the vitriolic acid in the form of Glauber's ber's ſalt (174, K.) On old walls it is found united to fixed air and water; in which ſtate it is collected at the ſurface of the earth in many places in Aſia and Africa. Borax likewiſe contains it (196, L). The mineral alkali has not been procured from the native ſalts containing it, the aerial excepted, by any proceſs ſufficiently cheap. It is obtained, by the incineration of certain plants of the kali kind, growing near the ſea-ſide. The crude mineral alkali in commerce is called ſoda, or barillia. It contains ſeveral neutral ſalts in ſmall proportions. Repeated ſolution and cryſtallization in water are uſed to purify it, as it is more ſoluble than the other ſalts that contaminate it, and conſequently cryſtallizes laſt of all. For very nice purpoſes the pureſt common ſalt may be decompoſed by melting with calx of lead; the acid combining with the lead, and leaving the alkali diſengaged: or common ſalt may be decompoſed by the addition of nitrous acid, which ſeizes the alkali, and forms quadrangular nitre. The nitre being deflagrated with charcoal, leaves the alkali diſengaged. In either caſe, if common ſalt or nitre remain in the alkali, they will be ſeparated by ſolution in water, and evaporation.

The mineral alkali is uſually combined with enough of fixed air to render it cryſtallizable. Its cryſtals contain above half their weight of water, which flies off by expoſure to the air, leaving the ſalt in a dry white powder. This alkali, when deprived of fixed air, will not cryſtallize, but, like the vegetable alkali, attracts humidity from the air, and becomes fluid.

S The vegetable and mineral alkalis have a very great reſemblance to each other in their properties, but the elective attraction of the former is, in general, the moſt powerful. Their combinations with acids have already been treated of. Their action on metals in the humid way is not conſiderable. The calces of ſeveral metals are ſoluble in alkalis by the dry method, as are likewiſe all the earths. Siliceous earths in particular, form, by fuſion with alkalis, that beautiful product of human induſtry, glaſs. Cauſtic, or pure alkalis, unite with oily or fat ſubſtances, and form ſoap.

T The proceſs for making glaſs is ſimple; but the practice is by no means eaſy. From one to two parts of alkali are mixed with two parts of vitrifiable earth, and the mixture calcined for a time in a heat not ſufficient to convert it into glaſs. By this management great part of the more volatile matters, that might cauſe the melted maſs to froth and ſwell, are diſſipated. Theſe calcined materials, called frit, are then melted into glaſs by a ſtronger heat; which, when formed into utenſils, is gradually cooled in an oven. This is called annealing. The imperfections of glaſs are, opake ſpots, bubbles, veins, or a coloured tinge. Some glaſs will change, or be corroded by the action of the air, or chemical menſtrua. Such, in general, has too much alkali, or has not been held long enough in fuſion. Some will crack by ſmall changes of temperature, by wiping, or by the ſlight ſcratches that an iron inſtrument may make, or that may be produced by placing the utenſil on a table where a particle or two of ſand may caſually lie. Theſe faults commonly ariſe from a want of ſufficient annealing, or the glaſs being ſuffered to grow too cold before it is carried to the annealing oven. The management of the heat is ſaid to be of great importance in this art.

The art of making ſoap conſiſts in depriving the alkali of the fixed air it may be combined with, and afterwards combining it with ſome oily ſubſtance, which, in the manufactories, is done by a gentle boiling. One part of quicklime, and two of ſoda, are boiled together for a ſhort time, with twelve parts of water. The filtered lixivium is ſoap-lye, or a ſolution of cauſtic alkali, and may be concentrated by heat. If it be concentrated till its ſpecific gravity is about 1.375, or, which is the ſame thing, till a phial that can contain an ounce of water will hold one ounce ſeven penny-weights and a half of the lye, the ſoap may be made without boiling. One part of this lye muſt be mixed with two of olive-oil in a glaſs or ſtone-ware veſſel. The mixture being ſtirred from time to time with a wooden ſpatula, ſoon becomes thick and white, and in ſeven or eight days the combination is completed, and forms a very white and firm ſoap.

The lye in large manufactories is made no ſtronger than to float a new-laid egg, when the workmen begin to form the mixture. To a part of the lye diluted they add an equal weight of oil, which is ſet on a gentle fire, and agitated. When the mixture begins to unite, the reſt of the lye is added, and the whole digeſted by a gentle heat till the ſoap is formed. If it be well made it is firm and white, not ſubject to become moiſt by expoſure to the air, and completely mixes with water, without exhibiting any drops of oil on the ſurface. Trial is made of it, and the requiſite alterations are obtained by the addition either of oil or alkali. At the end of the boiling common ſalt is thrown in. A twofold effect is hereby produced. The ſoap is ſeparated, becauſe not diffuſible in ſalt-water; and it is rendered harder by the complete ſeparation of vegetable alkali from it; for the vegetable alkali does not make a firm ſoap; and, as much of it as may be in the mixture, decompoſes a portion of the common ſalt by ſtronger affinity to its acid. The alkali of the decompoſed common ſalt, namely, the mineral, unites therefore with that portion of the oil which would otherwiſe have remained in combination with the vegetable alkali.

The cleanſing property of ſoap is well known, and is to be attributed to its alkali, which will render a ſmall portion of oily matter, beyond what it is already united to, diffuſible in water. Soap is eaſily prevented from mixing with water by any ſalt, except alkalis, and is therefore no contemptible teſt of the purity of natural waters (149, o.)

Y Sal ammoniac, or ſalted volatile alkali, formerly imported from Egypt, is now made in large quantities in Britain. The volatile alkali is obtained in an impure liquid ſtate by diſtillation from ſoot or bones, or any other ſubſtance that affords it. To this the vitriolic acid is added. The vitriolic ammoniac (174, L) thus produced, is then decompoſed by common ſalt, by double affinity; the vitriolic acid combining with the mineral alkali, and the marine acid with the volatile alkali. The liquor therefore contains Glauber's ſalt, and ſal ammoniac, which are ſeparated by cryſtallization, and the ſal ammoniac is ſublimed into cakes for ſale. The cheapneſs of vitriolic acid and of common ſalt is the cauſe why they are made uſe of inſtead of the marine acid.

Z The volatile alkali cannot be had abſolutely diſengaged from every other ſubſtance, except in the form of air. By diſtillation of ſal ammoniac with lime, a ſolution of pure volatile alkali in water comes over (144, D) which cannot be rendered dry for want of ſufficient fixity in the ſalt.

A If chalk be uſed inſtead of lime, the volatile alkali receives more than its own weight of fixed air, and comes over in a concrete ſtate much leſs pungent than in the other proceſs, though not ſufficiently neutralized to prevent its exhibiting its alkaline properties very ſtrongly (160, W.)

B Impure volatile alkali is purified by forming ſal ammoniac with the marine acid. Sal ammoniac becomes very pure by a few ſublimations, and the volatile alkali being recovered again by the proceſs already deſcribed, is found to be one and the ſame ſalt, whatever may have been the ſubject that originally afforded it.

C In the diſtillation of the cauſtic volatile alkali, (144, D) an aeriform fluid is extricated, which conſiſts of the alkali, either pure or elſe combined with too ſmall a quantity of water (145, D) to admit of condenſation into the fluid ſtate. It may be confined by quickſilver. With water it forms the cauſtic volatile alkali, from which heat again expels it: with fixed air it forms the concrete volatile alkali; and with marine acid air (190, O) it forms common ſal ammoniac. When the ſtrong cauſtic volatile alkali is diſtilled, it is therefore neceſſary to annex the pneumatic apparatus with water to receive the alkaline air (190, Q.).

D The electric ſpark paſſed through alkaline air produces inflammable air three times the bulk of the alkaline air.

E The properties of volatile and fixed alkalis reſemble each other, but the elective attraction of the latter is moſt prevalent. The volatile alkali has more action on metals and metallic calces than the fixed. In the dry way it cannot be exhibited. Cauſtic volatile alkali combines with oils, though difficultly. The ſaponaceous liquid, called eau de luce, is a preparation of this ſort.

CHAP. XVI.

OF MINES AND METALS IN GENERAL.

THE internal parts of the earth, as far as the excavations made by natural cauſes, or by the induſtry of men, have given ſcope for obſervation, exhibit ſtriking marks of the immenſe changes that have been produced by the chemical action of bodies on each other, during a courſe of ages far preceding all human record. It ſeems probable, that the loftieſt mountains, which run in chains through the great continents, and are compoſed chiefly of granite, were formed previous to the exiſtence of animals or vegetables on the earth. The ſame remark applies likewiſe to mountains of limeſtone, or marble of a granular texture, and is founded on the conſideration, that the remains of thoſe organized ſubſtances are never found in them. Other mountains, for the contrary reaſon, are evidently of poſterior formation. Such as have their materials arranged in ſtrata or beds, ſeem to have been formed by ſubſidence and cryſtallization in water. The planes thus formed appear, from a variety of ſigns, to have been disjoined, broken, and thrown up into heaps by earthquakes, or ſimilar convuſions of nature. Volcanos, or the eruption of ſubterraneous fires, have alſo contributed greatly to change the internal conſtruction and

external

L external appearance of the globe we inhabit. There
is no country or climate where veſtiges of theſe
awful phenomena are not plentifully to be met
with. Volcanic hills are often pyramidical, with a
plain, or hollow cavity at top, and have one or
more ridges proceeding from thence as a center.
Strata of lava, and other volcanic products, abound
in the vicinity, moſtly beneath the ſurface, and
are regularly diſpoſed ſo as to point out the ſource
M from which they formerly iſſued. Metallic bodies
are moſtly found in the ſtratified mountains. The
beds of theſe mountains being thrown up into an
inclined poſition, appear to have been worn down
by the long-continued action of the atmoſpheric
changes; ſo that ſtrata, which in lower grounds
are too deep for the miners to arrive at, are here
rendered acceſſible.

N Such metallic combinations as are found in
nature are called ores. The metal is ſaid to be
mineralized by the ſubſtance that is combined with
it. It muſt, however, be obſerved, as an excep-
tion, that native metallic ſalts are not called ores.
O The chief mineralizers are ſulphur, arſenic, or its
acid, and fixed air. Metals are alſo found native
or uncombined; but ſparingly.

P There are entire mountains which conſiſt of
iron-ore: other ores form but an inconſiderable
part of the mountain in which they are found.
Some ores run parallel to the ſtony ſtrata, though
very far from having that regularity of thickneſs

thoſe ſtrata poſſeſs; others croſs the ſtrata in all directions. The laſt are called veins.

The ſtones wherein the ore is imbedded are called its matrix. Theſe are not peculiarly appropriated to any metal, but ſome ſtones more frequently accompany metals than others.

The art of extracting metals from ores in the ſmall way is called aſſaying or eſſaying. The term is alſo applied to the ſeparation of gold or ſilver from other metals, and procuring them alone. Ores may be aſſayed either by the dry or humid method. In the dry way the proceſs is conducted nearly in the ſame method as when the metals are extracted in the large furnaces, and, generally ſpeaking, diſcovers little more than the quantity of the metal contained in the ore. In the moiſt way, by ſkilful management, the quality and quantity of all the ingredients become known.

The proceſs by fire for obtaining metals from their ores in large qualities for commercial purpoſes, is called ſmelting.

The operations for ſeparating metals from ores are trituration, and waſhing in a ſtream of water, by which the lighter parts are carried off, while the heavier ſubſide. This is of ſervice when the metalliferous parts are conſiderably heavier than the reſt. Roaſting, by which ſulphur, water, arſenic, vitriolic acid, or other volatile and uſeleſs ſubſtances, are diſſipated. Fuſion or ſmelting with ſuch a mixture of earths, or other matters as may facilitate the ſame, by which the ſuperfluous part of

the ore is ſcorified, or melted into a ſlag or glaſs,
ſufficiently thin to allow the metalline particles to
ſubſide to the bottom of the furnace in a reguline
u ſtate. In aſſays, phlogiſtic matters are uſed for
fluxing the maſs, that the metal may obtain the
neceſſary quantity of phlogiſton; but in large
works the fuel generally anſwers that purpoſe.

v It is obvious, that the trituration, waſhing and
roaſting, are not in all caſes required; that in
ſome caſes the roaſting muſt precede the trituration;
and that the additions in the ſmelting
require an attention to the ſuppoſed or known
w contents of the ore required to be fuſed. The previous
examination of ores by the blow-pipe,
(134. c) and more eſpecially the humid analyſis,
are of great ſervice, by indicating the proper
additions to be made in ſmelting.

x In the humid way the ore is finely powdered,
and diſſolved in ſuch a menſtruum as is adapted to
take up either the whole or ſome of the parts conjectured,
or by blow-pipe experiments known, to
enter into its compoſition. The undiſſolved reſidue,
if any, is ſubjected to trials by other menſtruums.
The parts in ſolution may be ſeparated
by the addition of precipitating matters, or by evaporating
the ſolvent to dryneſs. The properties and
weights of the precipitates indicate both the quality
and quantity of each ſubſtance contained in the ore.
This method of aſſaying, though incomparably
more exact than the other, is not yet much practiſed,
becauſe the operations are ſlower, and require

an extenſive application of the principles of the moſt enlightened chemiſtry*.

Metallic ſubſtances in their reguline ſtate have Y a peculiar brilliancy and opacity (170, z.) Properties, undoubtedly, owing to their great denſity, and the phlogiſton they contain. For the refractive power which bodies exert on light is found to be V nearly as their denſities (1. 262, A) excepting inflammable ſubſtances, and in theſe it is in a higher proportion. And, becauſe the refraction and reflection of light ariſe from the ſame cauſe (1. 308, E) ſuch bodies as refract moſt will alſo reflect the light moſt ſtrongly. Opacity is a conſequence of the reflection of light. White metals are very opake. I Gold-leaf, which is about † the $\frac{1}{282000}$ part of an inch thick, tranſmits light of a beautiful green; but ſilver-leaf, which is about the $\frac{1}{160000}$ of an inch thick, is opake. Other metals have not been ſo much extended, and whether any of them are ſuſceptible of it is not known.

Melted metals, like all other fluids, aſſume a Z ſymmetrical form in cooling (152, x.) The cryſtals are larger the ſlower the tranſition from the fluid to the ſolid ſtate; and the ſpecific gravities of ſome, and perhaps all metals, are greatly affected in the ſame ſpecimen (17, w) from this circumſtance. Several metals have their cryſtals ſeparated by agitation or pounding, juſt at the time of congelation; they have then a powdery or granular form. Theſe, if ſtruck with a hammer immediately after congelation, are broken, and exhibit the regular arrangement of their internal parts. Lead affords a remarkable inſtance of this.

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* See Bergman's Opuſcula, and Kirwan's Mineralogy.

† This is the thickneſs deduced from the weight and ſurface of a book of gold, when the metal is ſo fine as to have but three grains of alloy in the ounce, and the workman extraordinarily ſkilful. Finer gold cannot be wrought in this way.

A Moſt metals will uniformly mix in all proportions with each other, and may be afterwards ſeparated by proceſſes founded on the conſideration of their various fuſibility, ſolubility, or diſpoſition to be calcined.

B The ſpecific gravities of theſe metallic compounds is ſcarcely ever ſuch as would be mathematically deduced from their ſpecific gravities of the metals made uſe of, on the ſuppoſition of their junction by ſimple contact.

C The fuſibility of theſe compounds is likewiſe ſuch in ſeveral inſtances as would not be expected from the fuſibility of the ingredients. In particular, a mixture of eight parts biſmuth, five lead, and three tin, will melt even in a heat lower than is ſufficient to cauſe water to boil.

D The portion of baſer or leſs valuable metal that is mixed with gold or ſilver, is called alloy.

E The imperfect metals are calcined by heat with acceſs of air: during this proceſs they give out a portion of their phlogiſton, while the calx receives air, moſt commonly aerial acid. The calces of molybdena, arſenic, and wolfram, when ſufficiently dephlogiſticated, become acid. Whence it is conjectured, that all metallic calces are of an acid nature.

Metallic calces are revived by the addition of phlogiſton (152, w. 167, q.) The black flux is very ſerviceable for this purpoſe; for, at the ſame time that its phlogiſton ſerves to revive the regulus, and its thin fuſion favours its ſubſidence, the alkali promotes the work, by combining with the fixed air of the calx.

A calx is heavier abſolutely, but not ſpecifically, than the regulus it was produced from.

The calces of metals are not only capable of revivification, but ſome of them receive ſo large a proportion of phlogiſton by the vapour of ſpirit of wine being paſſed over them when melted, as actually to become converted into a ſpecies of charcoal. Copper in particular is converted into a charcoal of more than twenty-ſix times its former weight, which may be burned in dephlogiſticated, but not in common air*.

Metals are ſoluble in acids, but not in their reguline ſtate. Such acids as cannot dephlogiſticate a metal expoſed to their action do not diſſolve it, though they will take up the calx. During the ſolution of metals phlogiſton eſcapes in the form of ſome kind of air that contains it. Calces too far dephlogiſticated are not ſoluble.

When a metal is diſſolved nearly to ſaturation in an acid, it will be precipitated in its reguline

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* Prieſtley, VI. 207—211.

form by the addition of another metal, provided the attraction of the diſſolved calx for the phlogiſton of the metal laſt added, together with the attraction of the acid for the calx of the latter, be more powerful than the attractions they are oppoſed to (144, D.) The order of the precipitations of metals by each other is the ſame in all acids; a circumſtance which ſhows that the affinities of the calces for phlogiſton is more concerned in the effect than thoſe of the acids for the calces.
L The order is, zink, iron, manganeſe, cobalt, nickel, lead, tin, copper, biſmuth, antimony, arſenic, mercury, ſilver, gold, platina; where any preceding in the liſt will precipitate any, or all thoſe which follow, but none of thoſe that come before.

M Sulphur diſſolves many metals, and the alkaline liver of ſulphur diſſolves them all except zink. For this reaſon, great care ought to be taken to roaſt ſulphureous ores well, previous to aſſaying them with alkaline fluxes, as the ſulphur, together with the alkali, forms this menſtruum, and much of the regulus is retained.

N The imperfect metals are calcined by deflagration with nitre, and alkaliſe that ſalt in the ſame manner as any other phlogiſtic ſubſtance. Some of theſe, when ſufficiently heated, burn, or are decompoſed with flame, and moſt of them are rapidly burned by heating in dephlogiſticated air.

CHAP. XVIII.

OF THE PERFECT METALS, GOLD, PLATINA, AND SILVER.

THE perfect metals, gold, platina, and ſilver, cannot be calcined in any ſenſible degree by mere heat, or deflagrated with nitre. When calcined by other methods, they may be reduced by heating, without the addition of any other phlogiſton than is ſuppoſed to pervade the veſſels.

Gold is a yellow metal of much greater ſpecific gravity than any other, except platina (17, w); is directly ſoluble in aqua regia (192, v), and the dephlogiſticated marine acid, and precipitable from theſe in its metallic form, by the ſolution of vitriol of iron. Vitriolic acid, diſtilled from mangaaneſe, alſo diſſolves it. It has all the metallic characters (170, z) in the moſt perfect degree. When in fuſion, it has a ſea-green colour.

Gold is moſtly, if not always, found in its metallic ſtate. Some ſands afford gold by ſimple waſhing, the heavy metallic particles ſubſiding ſooneſt. But when embodied in earths, or ſtones, theſe are pulverized and boiled with one tenth of their weight of mercury, together with water. The mercury, after a certain time, abſorbs the gold, and may be ſeparated by diſtillation. Or otherwiſe by heating the ſand red-hot, and quenching in water ſeveral times, for the purpoſe of cracking and dividing it, and then melting the whole into glaſs with twice its weight of the calx of lead, called litharge. Charcoal being added, revives the litharge into lead, which ſubſides to the bottom, carrying the gold with it. If the lead, thus ſeparated from the ſand, be again converted into litharge by calcination, the gold will remain ſeparate at the bottom of the teſt (130, x).

r This laſt operation, called teſting, or cupellation when performed in the ſmall way, is one of the beſt methods of ſeparating the imperfect from the perfect metals. The maſs of metals to be cupelled is put, together with lead, into a ſmall ſhallow crucible of burned bones, called a cupel, and fuſed with a conſiderable heat, with acceſs of air. The lead continually vitrifies, and carries all the imperfect metals with it. No litharge is produced in the ſmall way, becauſe the glaſs of lead is imbibed by the porous cupel. During the cupellation, the ſcoriæ, running down on all ſides from the metallic maſs, produce an appearance called circulation, by which the operator judges that the proceſs is going on well. When the metal is nearly pure, certain rainbow colours flaſh acroſs the ſurface, which ſoon after appears very brilliant and clean. This is called the brightening, and ſhews that the cupellation is ended.

s If the cupelled maſs contain more gold than ſilver, the gold may be diſſolved by aqua regia, and the ſilver will remain in a powdery form. If the ſilver prevail, pure nitrous acid will diſſolve it, and leave the gold. It is found moſt advantageous to add pure ſilver, if required, to make the proportion of this metal to the gold as three to one. For in this caſe the quantity of ſilver is not ſo ſmall as to be protected by the gold from the action of the menſtruum, nor the gold ſo ſmall as to fall into powder, when deſerted by the ſilver. Theſe proceſſes are called parting.

If platina be ſuppoſed to be mixed with the gold, both may be diſſolved in aqua regia, and the gold will be precipitated alone on the addition of martial vitriol. No other metal is precipitable from its ſolvent by martial vitriol but gold. The iron of the vitriol thus uſed becomes more dephlogiſticated than before.

The precipitate of gold from its ſolvent by a volatile alkali, or by a fixed alkali, if the volatile alkali be preſent in the menſtruum (192, v), has a wonderful power of detonating, with a moderate heat, the gold being thus revived. The force of this exploſion is not ſo great as that of gunpowder, if a judgment may be formed by burning it in a cloſed metallic veſſel; but is much greater, if attention be paid to the prodigious noiſe it makes, and the laceration of the metallic plate it is burned upon. Theſe contrary concluſions may be reconciled, either by ſuppoſing the force of aurum fulminans leſs than that of gunpowder, but that its velocity of expanſion is greater at the beginning; or otherwiſe, by ſuppoſing its force to be greater,

but

and that, when incloſed and in contact with red-hot metal, the powder is decompoſed in another way without exploſion. Experiment muſt, however, determine. The moſt probable theory of this fact is, that the calx of gold, in a certain heat, ſeizes the phlogiſton (187, x) of the volatile alkali it is combined with, while the other part of the alkali inſtantly aſſumes an aerial form.

v Tin, either diſſolved in aqua regia, or in ſubſtance, added to a ſolution of gold, precipitates the gold in the form of a beautiful purple powder, called the purple powder of Caſſius, which is of uſe in enamels, as it gives a fine tinge to glaſs. The preparation of this powder, and the production of a clear ruby coloured glaſs, require peculiar management.

w Light diſtilled oils, and more particularly ether, take gold from its ſolvent, but no other metal. If the ether be left to evaporate, by imperfectly cloſing the phial, the gold falls in its metallic form, no longer ſoluble by the acid beneath. Ardent ſpirit, wine, or vinegar, mingle uniformly with ſolutions of gold, and ſeparate it alone. Theſe methods purify gold from all admixtures.

x Liver of ſulphur combines with gold in the dry way into a maſs, diſſolvable in water.

y The imaginary value of gold probably originated in its property of bearing the action of the air, and all other liquids commonly met with, without tarniſhing or ruſting; to which value, no doubt, its great, and almost invariable specific gravity has contributed [illegible]. The gold coin of Britain consists of eleven parts gold to one of copper. The alloy is requisite to give the necessary hardness.

Platina has been found hitherto only in the gold-mines in Peru. It comes over in the form of grains, intermixed with ferruginous sand and quartz. The grains that remain, after the most magnetical and earthy particles have been separated, are of a whiter colour than iron. These contain one third of their weight of iron, and have a specific gravity of 16 or 18. To purify it, it must be repeatedly boiled in marine acid, till no more iron is separated, then washed, and dissolved in aqua regia; to this the Prussian alkali is to be added till it ceases to precipitate any iron; the clear solution being decanted off, the addition of pure sal ammoniac will throw down the platina, which may be fused in the most violent heat of a furnace. No other metal is precipitable by sal ammoniac.

Platina thus purified, is by much the heaviest body in nature (23, [illegible]). It is very malleable, though considerably harder than either gold or silver. Its colour is not distinguishable from silver on the touchstone. When in the highest degree of purity, it is not magnetical; but when its specific gravity is as low as 21,36, it still contains iron sufficient to render it susceptible of the magnetic

netic touch, and obedient to a ſtrong magnet*. It is ſoluble only in aqua regia, or the dephlogiſticated marine acid; and is not acted on by ſulphur. Mercury does not diſſolve it. It withſtands cupellation.

C Platina unites with moſt of the other metals, ſo as to compoſe a uniform compound.

D Silver is the whiteſt of all metals, ſoluble in moderately dilute nitrous acid, and in the vitriolic acid by the aſſiſtance of heat, but not directly in the marine acid, nor aqua regia. It is precipitable from either of the firſt mentioned acids by the addition of marine acid, which combines with its calx, and forms the inſoluble compound called luna cornea. Its malleability, compared with that of gold (231, Y), is nearly in proportion to its ſpecific gravity.

E Native ſilver is found in a great variety of forms, and imbedded in various earths. Some of the maſſes have been found of the weight of ſixty pounds. The greateſt quantity of this metal comes from Peru.

F The ores of ſilver are very numerous. Sulphur, arſenic, marine acid, coal, iron, copper, antimony, are the ſubſtances that ſeverally or collectively, in greater or leſs proportions, enter into their compoſition.

G The ſolution of ſilver, in the nitrous acid, affords nitrated ſilver, or lunar nitre, in ſmall cryſtals.

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[*] See the ſection on magnetiſm.

This ſalt detonates when heated with phlogiſtic matters, but fuſes in a moderate heat, without addition, into a dark coloured maſs, uſed by ſurgeons as a cauſtic, under the name of lapis infernalis.

Marine acid, or pure common ſalt, being added to a ſolution of ſilver, the ſilver falls down in combination with more than its weight of the marine acid. This compound melts in the fire, at a low red heat, and if caſt into thin plates, is ſemitranſparent, and ſomewhat flexible like horn; whence its name luna cornea. If carefully prepared, it proves clear, and is ſuppoſed to have given riſe to the notion of malleable glaſs. A greater heat does not expel the acid, but the whole concrete either riſes in fumes, or paſſes through the pores of the veſſel. As the marine acid throws down only ſilver, lead, and mercury, and the latter two of theſe are not preſent in ſilver that has paſſed the cupel (236, R) though a ſmall quantity of copper may elude the ſcorification in that proceſs, the ſilver which may be revived from luna cornea is purer than can be eaſily obtained by any other proceſs. It is reducible by trituration with its own weight of fixed alkali and a little water, and afterwards melting the whole in a crucible, whoſe bottom is covered with mineral alkali, well preſſed, the maſs of luna cornea being alſo covered with the mineral alkali. This management is required in order that the reduction may take place before the volatilization comes on, which, in the uſual method of reduction, would cauſe a conſiderable part of the ſilver to be loſt.

K The property of forming a luna cornea, or ſcarcely ſoluble compound, with marine acid, affords a good teſt for detecting the preſence of ſmall quantities of that acid, or unmetallic ſalt containing it, in waters. For by dropping the ſolution of ſilver in nitrous acid into ſuch waters, a cloud, of a curd-like appearance, will be immediately formed by the combination of the calx of ſilver with the marine acid, if preſent. This

L property alſo affords a method of purifying the nitrous acid (184, O).

M Silver is not corroded by the action of the atmoſphere; but is very apt to tarniſh and grow black by expoſure to phlogiſtic vapors.

N Sulphur, and alſo the liver of ſulphur, diſſolve ſilver in the dry way.

O Pure volatile alkali diſſolves the calx of ſilver; and the ſolution will afford cryſtals.

P Pure ſilver, like pure gold, is too ſoft to be uſed for ordinary purpoſes without alloy. In the Britiſh coinage fifteen parts of ſilver are alloyed with one of copper.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

OF THE IMPERFECT METALS; MERCURY, LEAD, COPPER, IRON, AND TIN.

MERCURY or quickſilver is a metal of a bluiſh white colour, not ſuſceptible of ruſt, or tarniſh, by expoſure to the air. Its fuſibility is ſo great, that it becomes fluid long before ice melts; and its volatility is ſuch, that it is driven off by actual ebullition, at a temperature (127, R) which the greater part of the other metals ſuſtain without melting. In its ſolid ſtate it is malleable. Its ſpecific gravity (17, W) is greater than any of the other metals, platina, gold, and wolfram excepted. By a heat, nearly ſufficient to cauſe it to riſe quickly in the vaporous form, it is calcined, provided the acceſs of atmoſpherical or pure air be allowed. This calx, improperly called precipitate per ſe, is of a red color, and reſumes its metallic form by mere increaſe of heat, at the ſame time that it gives out pure or dephlogiſticated air.

Native mercury is frequently found, but perhaps never free from metallic alloy. It is alſo found mineralized, in the form of precipitate per ſe, or combined with the vitriolic or marine acids, or with ſulphur. This laſt is called cinnabar. It is of various colours, from a yellowiſh to

a deep red, and is very ponderous. In cloſe
veſſels it ſublimes without any other alteration
than being deprived of its impurities; in open
v veſſels, with ſufficient heat, it is decompoſed. The
mercury is obtained from it by diſtillation, with
the addition of ſome ſubſtance that will combine
with, and detain the ſulphur; for which purpoſe
iron, in ſmall pieces, is commonly made uſe of. But if
calcareous earth be mixed with or abound in the ore,
v no other addition is requiſite. The paint called
vermillion, is an artificial cinnabar, produced by
combining mercury with ſulphur by trituration
and ſublimation. One hundred parts of cinnabar
contain eighty of mercury, and twenty of ſulphur.

w Mercury is judged to be pure when it is perfectly
fluid, and runs in neat globules, without
any pellicle on its ſurface, or without ſoiling a
funnel of clean white paper, through which it may
be poured by a very ſmall aperture at bottom. If
it leaves nothing behind after evaporation, its
x purity may be ſtill more depended on. For purpoſes
where the utmoſt purity is required, the
mercury may be triturated with flowers of brimſtone,
till it diſappears, by uniting with that ſubſtance
in the form of a black powder, called
ethiops mineral; with this may be mixed twice
the quantity of quicklime or filings of iron, and
the whole being ſubmitted to diſtillation, the mercury
y will riſe, and paſs into the receiver. Duſt
and other ſuperficial impurities, are removed by
preſſing mercury through a leathern bag.

Y The concentrated vitriolic acid, by boiling, combines with mercury into a white maſs, which, by the affuſion of a ſufficient quantity of hot water, becomes of a citron colour. It is ſcarcely at all ſoluble in water, and is known in medicine by the name of turbith mineral.

Z Nitrous acid diſſolves mercury very readily, and affords, by cryſtallization, a ſalt called mercurial nitre. If this ſalt, which is white, be expoſed to heat, it becomes yellow, then orange coloured, and, laſtly, red, in which ſtate it is found not to differ from precipitate per ſe (243, R. 182, Q.)

A Vitriolic acid, added to a ſolution of mercury in the nitrous acid, ſeizes the metallic calx, and falls to the bottom; forming the ſame combination as would have been produced by the direct ſolution of mercury in the vitriolic acid (245, Y). The affuſion of warm water converts it into turbith mineral.

B The common marine acid does not diſſolve mercury, though it readily unites with it when ſufficiently calcined by other means. Thus, when mercury is deprived of part of its phlogiſton by nitrous acid, in which it is diſſolved, the marine acid being added, immediately ſeizes the calx, and forms a ſalt of difficult ſolubility, which falls to the bottom.
C It is obſervable, in diſſolving mercury in the nitrous acid, that the ſolution at the beginning is attended with the eſcape of nitrous air (185, R), but that the mercury continues to be diſſolved after the emiſſion of air has ceaſed. The

latter portion is therefore taken up in its metallic
D ſtate. If the marine acid be added to a ſolution
of no greater quantity of mercury in nitrous acid,
than could be diſſolved with efferveſcence, the
precipitate will be a ſalt of ſparing ſolubility in
water, and highly corroſive, known by the name
E of corroſive ſublimate. But if the nitrous acid
be loaded with as much mercury as it can take
up, and marine acid be added, the precipitate
will be mild, and ſcarcely at all ſoluble in water,
and is then called mercurius dulcis, or calomel.

F Corroſive ſublimate has always, till lately, been made by ſublimation. This is effected by a variety of methods, all which tend to combine the marine acid with the calx of mercury. If the white ſaline maſs, produced by combining the vitriolic acid with mercury (245, Y), be triturated with an equal weight of ſea-ſalt, and expoſed to heat in a cucurbit (129, X) the vitriolic acid quits the calx of mercury to combine with the alkali of the ſalt, while the marine acid thus diſengaged unites with the mercurial calx, and forms the corroſive ſalt required. This is ſublimed by the heat, in a white maſs, cryſtallized in the form of needles,

G Corroſive ſublimate, triturated with mercury, abſorbs or unites with a quantity about two-thirds of its own weight. Sublimation renders the union more perfect, and affords the mercurius dulcis of the ſhops.

H The dephlogiſticated marine acid directly attacks mercury, depriving it of the requiſite portion of phlogiſton, and uniting with its calx into corroſive ſublimate.

I Mercury combines with almoſt all metallic ſubſtances, and communicates to them more or leſs of its fuſibility. When theſe metallic mixtures contain enough of mercury to render them ſoft in a mean temperature, they are called amalgams.

K Lead is a white metal of a conſiderably blue tinge, not ſubject to be much corroded by expoſure to air or water, though the brightneſs of its ſurface, when cut or ſcraped, ſoon goes off. It is very ſoft and flexible; not very tenacious, and conſequently incapable of being drawn into fine wire. Under the hammer it is eaſily extended into thin plates, but its properties have not induced workmen to ſubject it to the ſame trials as gold, ſilver, and copper, and therefore its comparative malleability is not known. Its ſpecific gravity is conſiderable. On the fire it melts long before ignition, at about the 540th degree of Fahrenheit's thermometer, at which period it begins to be calcined, if reſpirable air be preſent. In a ſtrong red heat it boils and emits fumes. If melted lead be poured into a box, previouſly rubbed with chalk, to prevent adheſion, and continually agitated, it will concrete into ſeparate grains, of conſiderable uſe in a variety of mechanical operations; or if it be poured into a mould, and turned out at the inſtant of cooling,

cooling, a blow with a hammer will break the maſs, and the ſymmetrical arrangement of the internal parts will be ſeen.

The ores of lead are moſt commonly found among earths of the calcareous or ponderous kind. Calciform lead-ores are either tranſparent or opake ſpars, or pulverulent, or ochreous maſſes of a reddiſh or brown colour. They are reducible by fuſion with phlogiſtic matters. Lead is alſo found mineralized by the vitriolic acid, forming a white ponderous ſalt, ſoluble in water. Likewiſe combined with the phoſphoric acid of a greeniſh colour. Sulphur is the uſual mineralizer of lead. Of theſe the galena, or potters lead ore, is the moſt common. It is of a lead colour, but darker, and is for the moſt part formed in cubes of a moderate ſize, or grains of a cubical figure, with the corners cut off; its texture being granular. When antimony enters into the compoſition, the texture is radiated or filamentous. There are alſo pyritous and red arſenical lead-ores, but the latter is very ſcarce. The ſulphureous lead-ores contain ſilver. It is not indubitably eſtabliſhed that native lead has ever been found.

By calcination, lead is converted into a duſky powder called plumbum uſtum; a longer continued heat, with acceſs of air, renders it white, yellow, and after ſome days, of a bright red, called minium, or red lead. The heat for this purpoſe muſt not exceed a certain degree. A greater heat converts the calx, by degrees, into a yellow flaky calx, called litharge; and by a moderately ſtrong fire, it runs into a yellow tranſparent glaſs, which powerfully diſſolves metallic calces (236, K); and unleſs combined with theſe, or earthy additions, corrodes and paſſes through common crucibles. This glaſs acts more ſtrongly on ſiliceous than on argillaceous earths, and is a principal ingredient in fine white glaſs.

Vitriolic acid, by boiling, combines with lead N
into a ſaline maſs. Nitrous unites with it into a cryſtallizable ſalt. The vitriolic acid, added to a ſolution of lead in the nitrous acid, ſeizes the calx, and falls to the bottom, forming the ſame compound as would have been produced by direct ſolution of lead. The marine acid in the ſame manner carries down the lead, and forms a combination called plumbum corneum, which is more ſoluble in water than luna cornea (241, H).

The marine acid acts directly on lead, by O
boiling.

The acetous acid diſſolves lead and its calces. P
White lead, or ceruſe, is made by rolling leaden plates ſpirally up, ſo as to leave the ſpace of an inch between each coil, and placing them vertically in earthen pots, at the bottom of which is ſome good vinegar. The pots are to be covered and expoſed for a length of time to a gentle heat in a ſand bath, or by covering them with dung. The vapour of the vinegar attaches itſelf to the ſurface of the plates, and corrodes them, by that means reducing them into ceruſe, which comes off in

flakes when the lead is uncoiled. The plates are thus treated repeatedly, till they are corroded through.

Q The acid in ceruſe is ſuperſaturated. By ſolution of this compound in acetous acid, a cryſtallizable ſalt, called ſugar of lead, is obtained, which is the ſame as would with leſs facility have been procured by diſſolving lead directly in that acid.

R Sulphur readily combines with lead, by the aſſiſtance of heat, and forms a compound, ſimilar to the ſulphureous lead ore.

S Oils and fats have a ſtrong action on lead, and its calces. Litharge, or any of the other calces of lead are copiouſly and entirely ſoluble in oils by boiling, which are thereby rendered thicker, and more drying. Linſeed oil, thus impregnated with litharge, is much uſed by painters, under the name of drying oil. Many of the plaſters uſed in ſurgery have for their baſis oil thickened by boiling with calx of lead.

T Lead in its metallic ſtate unites with moſt metals. It may be ſeparated from copper by eliquation, or melting by a heat too low to fuſe the copper. It altogether rejects iron.

U Copper is a metal of a peculiar reddiſh brown colour, ſubject to tarniſh; it grows black by long expoſure to the air; and eaſily ruſts by moiſture. It is of very conſiderable hardneſs, tenacity, ductility, and malleability: and its elaſticity is greater than that of any metal, except iron. From this

laſt property, maſſes of this metal emit a loud and laſting ſound when ſtruck, and that, more eſpecially, when of a proper figure (68. w). At a de- v
gree of heat, far below ignition, the ſurface of a piece of poliſhed copper becomes covered with various ranges of priſmatic colours, the red of each order being neareſt the end which has been moſt heated; an effect, which muſt doubtleſs be attributed to calcination, the ſtratum of calx being thickeſt where the heat has been greateſt, and gradually thinner and thinner towards the colder part (1, 280). A greater degree of heat calcines this metal more rapidly, ſo that it contracts thin powdery ſcales on its ſurface, which may be eaſily rubbed off, the flame of the fuel becoming at the ſame time of a beautiful green or bluiſh colour. In a ſtrong white heat, greater than is neceſ- w
ſary to melt gold or ſilver, it melts and exhibits a bluiſh green colour.

Copper is ſometimes found native. Its ores are x
either calciform, of a red, blue, or green colour, or ſulphureous, with more or leſs of iron, arſenic, or zink. It is alſo found mineralized by the vitriolic or marine acids (178, w). Copper is extracted from its ores by repeated fuſions and roaſting, by which the ſulphur is driven off, and the baſer metals ſcorified. Lead is an uſeful addition for depriving it of the laſt portions of ſulphur. Silver is extracted from copper by eliquation (250, r) with lead, which carries the ſilver down with it. This proceſs cannot however ſeparate gold from copper.

copper. When the quantity of gold is ſuſpected to be too ſmall to be advantageouſly recovered by eliquation (236, k) it may be extracted by pulverizing the ſulphurated copper, ſulphur being added if required, and grinding the maſs with mercury, which amalgamates with the gold (235, q).

y Vitriolic acid, highly concentrated and boiling, diſſolves copper, and by evaporation affords blue cryſtals (178, v) of vitriolated copper. By cementation of copper with ſulphur, part of the maſs becomes ſoluble in water, and affords the ſame ſalt.

z Nitrous acid diſſolves copper with great violence, and forms a deliqueſcent ſalt. The ſolution is green, as are alſo the cryſtals. This ſalt dried and placed in a heat not much greater than the hand can bear, takes fire.

A Marine acid likewiſe diſſolves this metal, and forms a deliqueſcent ſalt, which takes fire from a candle, and burns with a blue flame.

B Verdigris is made by ſtratifying copper plates with huſks of grapes after the juice has been preſſed out, the remaining acid forming this ſubſtance by corroding the metal. Verdigris diſſolved in diſtilled vinegar becomes completely ſaturated with acid, and when cryſtallized, is improperly called diſtilled verdigris.

D Copper may be deprived of any acid by diſtil-
E lation, without any intermediate ſubſtance. The acetous acid thus recovered from cryſtals of verdigris, is called radical vinegar (217, z).

When copper is ſeparated from any acid by the addition of an alkali, in greater quantity than is ſufficient for the purpoſe, the alkali diſſolves part of the calx, and gives the liquor a blue colour.

Cauſtic volatile alkali diſſolves copper if the acceſs of reſpirable air be permitted. The ſolution is of a fine blue, and yields, on evaporation a ſaline maſs of the ſame colour. It is obſervable that the alkaline liquid remains colourleſs while the air is prevented from communicating with its ſurface, but that the blue colour extends gradually from the ſurface downwards, when the veſſel is opened. A circumſtance well explained from the conſideration that the air acts as an intermedium in carrying off that portion of phlogiſton, which it is neceſſary the copper ſhould loſe in order to become ſoluble.

Neutral ſalts, and alſo oils and fat ſubſtances, have a conſiderable action on copper.

Copper mixes with the other metals. The compoſitions moſt generally in uſe, in which copper enters as the principal part, are braſs and bell-metal.

Braſs is compoſed of copper and zink. According to the proportion of zink, the braſs is of a yellower and paler colour than copper, and when the zink greatly abounds it is white. Braſs is very ductile, and malleable when cold, but brittle when hot. It is harder, more ſonorous, and not ſo liable to ruſt as pure copper, and is alſo more fuſible, and leſs ſubject to ſcorify in a moderate heat.

Theſe properties, added to the beauty of its colour, render it a very valuable material in the arts.

L The fineſt braſs is not made by the fuſion of copper and zink, but by the cementation of granulated copper with pulverized calamine and charcoal. The calamine, which is an ore containing zink in a calcined ſtate, parts with its zink in the form of vapour when revived by the charcoal; and this volatile ſemi-metal combines with the copper. The proceſs laſts eight or ten hours, or even ſome days, according to the quality of the calamine, at the end of which, by an increaſe of heat for a ſhort time, the braſs is fuſed into a maſs at the bottom of the crucible. The quantity of zink in good braſs, may be about one third.

M Bell-metal is compoſed of copper alloyed with tin. According to the proportion of tin the compound becomes paler than copper, and when the tin amounts to one third of the maſs, it becomes of a very beautiful yellowiſh white. It is remarkable that zink, which is ſcarcely at all malleable, ſhould unite with copper into the malleable compound braſs; and on the contrary, the two malleable metals, tin and copper, compoſe bell-metal, which is ſo brittle, that it may be reduced to powder. The ſpecific gravity of bell-metal is a circumſtance equally ſingular; for in moſt proportions of the mixture it is about as heavy as the heavieſt of the two metals, copper; and when the tin is about one third, its denſity is actually greater than that of copper*. The extreme hardneſs and ſonorouſneſs of this compound, together with its being leſs ſubject to alter by expoſure to the viciſſitudes of the air, than any other cheap metallic compound poſſeſſing the ſame properties, have recommended it in the fabrication of various utenſils and articles; as cannon, bells, ſtatues, &c. in the compoſition of which, other metals, however, are mixed in various proportions, according to the fancy or the experience of the artiſt.

The attention of the philoſopher is more particularly directed to the mixture of copper and tin, on account of its being the ſubſtance of which the ſpeculums of reflecting teleſcopes are made. For this purpoſe there is required a metal capable of an exquiſite poliſh, hard enough to receive and retain a figure accurately ſuited to the regular reflection of light, and not ſubject to loſe its poliſh or figure by the action of air and the vapours uſually floating therein. Such a compoſition, it muſt be confeſſed, is ſtill a deſideratum; but the experiments and practice of the beſt artiſts ſhew, that pure copper alloyed with pure tin, affords a metal equal at leaſt, if not ſuperior, to any of the leſs ſimple mixtures given in books. As to the proportions, it is found that a ſmall addition of tin renders the colour of copper white, and at the ſame time hardens it conſiderably. Theſe effects are more and more prevalent while the doſe of tin increaſes as far as a

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* Lewis on Newmann, i. 97.

certain point. Fourteen ounces and a half of tin to
two pounds of copper, is a good compoſition for
o mirrors. One third part tin produces a whiter
colour, but is too hard to be worked in the uſual
p methods of grinding. If the doſe of tin be greatly
increaſed, a ſofter metal of a bluiſh white colour
is obtained, which bears and retains a good poliſh
and figure, but does not ſeem equal to the yellowiſh
white. Some care and attention are required
in caſting mirrors, that they may not prove
full of microſcopic pores by the intermixture of
calx. For this metal is eaſily reduced to a calx,
and burns with a purple flame in a ſtrong red heat.
q To prevent this, the copper muſt firſt be fuſed in
a melting-pot, larger than ſufficient to contain the
whole, and whoſe upper part is filled with pulverized
charcoal, and the tin afterwards added;
and when the mixture is completed, the whole
muſt be ſuffered to cool, nearly to concretion, before
it is poured out. Or, which is ſtill better, it
may be poured out and again melted with a low
heat, ſuch as is merely ſufficient for the purpoſe.
Among various pieces caſt out of the ſame fuſion,
the latter proved always cleaner, better adapted to
the mould, and of a more uniform texture when
poliſhed.

r Iron is a metal of a bluiſh white colour, more
or leſs dark in various ſpecimens, ſubject to ruſt
by expoſure to air and moiſture. Its tenacity,
ductility, and malleability are very great; and it
exceeds every other metal in elaſticity and hardneſs.

neſs. The appearance of priſmatic colours (251, [illegible]) on its poliſhed ſurface takes place long before ignition. It may be ignited by a quick ſucceſſion of blows with a hammer. Struck with a flint it emits decrepitating ignited particles, ſuch as can be obtained from no other metal by the ſame means. It is eaſily calcined by fire, but requires a moſt intenſe heat to fuſe it when pure. During its decompoſition by heat, it exhibits ſtronger marks of combuſtion than any other entire metal. It is even ſaid*, that the blaſt of bellows will maintain its heat after it has been ſtrongly ignited and taken out of the fire; and it is certain that the end of an iron wire being made red hot and dipped in a jar of dephlogiſticated air, will be entirely conſumed by the ſucceſſive combuſtion of its parts. In a white heat, iron appears as if covered with a kind of varniſh, and in this ſtate two pieces applied together will adhere and may be perfectly united by forging. This operation, peculiar to iron, is called welding. Iron is thought to be the only ſubſtance in nature that has the property of becoming magnetical. Such other bodies as have that property, poſſeſs it in a very ſlight degree, and it may ariſe from iron contained in them, as far as experiments have yet unequivocally ſhewn.

Iron is more abundant and more univerſally diffuſed than any other metallic body. Few ſands,

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* By Dr. Hooke.

clays, ſtones, or waters of rivers, ſprings, rain, or ſnow are perfectly free from it. The parts of animal and vegetable ſubſtances have been alſo obſerved to contain it. Native malleable iron has been found, though rarely. Its ores are either purely calciform, as in ochres and hæmatites; or the calces are mixed chiefly with earths, as in ſpars, jaſper, boles, baſaltes, micas, &c.; or the iron is mineralized with ſulphur, as in pyrites, (171, c) with arſenic in the white pyrites, or with both; with bitumen in the coal ore; or combined with the vitriolic acid in native vitriol or vitriolic waters.

T The ores of iron, after roaſting, are ſmelted in furnaces of various magnitudes and forms. Some are thirty feet in height, their internal ſhape being nearly the fruſtum of a cone, whoſe larger baſe is uppermoſt. Near the bottom is an aperture for the inſertion of the pipe of large bellows, worked by water, or of other machines for producing a current of air, and alſo holes to be occaſionally opened to permit the ſcoria and the metal to flow out, as the proceſs may require. Charcoal or coke, with lighted bruſhwood, is firſt thrown in, and when the whole inſide of the furnace has acquired a ſtrong ignition, the ore is thrown in by ſmall quantities at a time, with more of the fuel, and commonly a portion of lime ſtone, as a flux. The ore gradually ſubſides into the hotteſt part of the furnace, where it becomes fuſed, and the metallic particles, revived by the coal, paſs through the ſcoriæ, and poſſeſs the lower place. The quantity of fuel, the additions, and the heat muſt be regulated in order to obtain iron of a good quality; and this quality muſt likewiſe, in the firſt product, be neceſſarily different, according to the nature of the parts that compoſe the ore.

The beſt caſt iron, or iron as much freed from heterogeneous matters as the uſual proceſs of ſmelting can effect it, is not at all malleable, and ſo hard, as perfectly to withſtand the file. If this be kept in fuſion for a conſiderable time, it boils, and much ſcoria is ſeparated; and by repeated blows of a large hammer on the maſs, when nearly at the melting heat, more extraneous matter is forced out, and it is rendered malleable. In this ſtate it is much ſofter than before, and of a fibrous texture. u

Caſt iron has for ſome time paſt been brought into the malleable ſtate by paſſing it through rollers inſtead of forging it. This is found to be a real improvement in the proceſs, as well in point of diſpatch, as in its not requiring that ſkill and dexterity which forge-men only acquire by long practice. If the purpoſes of commerce ſhould require more iron to be made, it will be eaſy to fabricate and erect rolling machines, though it might be impracticable to procure expert forge-men in a ſhort time. v

Steel is iron in an intermediate ſtate between caſt iron and iron which is ſoft, tough, and malleable. The iron run from ſome German ores is found to be a good ſteel, when forged only to a w certain point. But ſteel is uſually made by cementation from the beſt forged iron with matters chiefly of the inflammable kind. Two parts of pounded charcoal and one of wood aſhes is eſteemed a good cement. The iron bars are bedded ſeparately, or apart from each other, in this cement, in a cloſed crucible, and kept in an equal red heat for eight or ten hours, at the end of which time they are found to be converted into ſteel. If the cementation be continued too long, the ſteel is brought to a ſtate reſembling caſt iron, being rendered exceſſively brittle, incapable of being welded, and apt to crack and fly in forging: but on the contrary, cementation with abſorbent earths or ſimple ignition long continued, reduces ſteel to the ſtate of forged iron.

x It is a valuable property of ſteel, that though it is ſufficiently ſoft when gradually cooled, to be formed without difficulty into various tools and utenſils, yet it may be afterwards rendered more or leſs hard, even to an extreme degree, by ſimply plunging it, when heated, into cold water. This is called tempering. The hardneſs produced is greater in proportion as the ſteel is hotter and the water colder. The colours that appear on the ſurface of ſteel ſlowly heated, are yellowiſh white, yellow, gold colour, purple, violet, deep blue, yellowiſh white, after which the ignition takes place. Theſe ſigns direct the artiſt in tempering. Ignited ſteel quenched in water, proves exceſſively hard and brittle, but it may be reduced to the required degree of ſoftneſs by heating it till it exhibits a known colour. Soft ſteel has a greater ſpecific gravity than that which is hardened.

Y Caſt iron, by cementation with animal aſhes, may be brought into a ſtate reſembling ſteel, and capable of being tempered by immerſion in water; and a farther continuation of this proceſs carries it beyond that point, ſo that it reſembles forged iron. But this management is much leſs effectual than forging, probably becauſe the impurities of caſt iron are not removed by it.

Z Tools and other articles wrought in forged iron, are often cemented with a compoſition of burned leather, horns, or the like ſubſtances for a ſhort time, by which a very thin ſtratum of the external part is converted into ſteel, and is hardened by immerſion in water. This is called caſe-hardening.

A The chief differences in iron appear to depend on the preſence or abſence of plumbago (169, v). When caſt iron is diſſolved in the vitriolic acid, a reſidue remains untouched, which is found to conſiſt chiefly of plumbago, inflammable air being at the ſame time extricated (179, A). Steel in the ſame circumſtances, affords leſs plumbago and more inflammable air. Tough, malleable iron, ſimilarly treated, leaves ſcarcely any reſidue, but gives out more inflammable air than either of the other kinds of iron. B It is therefore ſeen that caſt iron conſiſts of the metal combined with plumbago, which is a kind of ſulphur, and deprived of ſuch a portion of phlogiſton as it is probably neceſſary (233, 1) it ſhould loſe, in order to be capable of ſuch an union. Steel is a more perfect iron, nearly as malleable in its ſoft ſtate as forged iron; but in its hard ſtate, as brittle as the crude caſt iron. Pure forged iron is the metal itſelf alone.

C The iron obtained from various ores or by various proceſſes, is found to differ in its qualities in ſeveral other reſpects, the cauſes of which have not yet been ſufficiently examined. In particular, the iron of certain ores, eſpecially if the fuſion in the ſmelting furnace has not been continued a ſufficient time, has the quality of breaking in pieces under the hammer when ignited. This is called red-ſhort iron.

D Such iron as contains the phoſphoric acid, is malleable when ignited and brittle when cold. This is called cold-ſhort iron.

E The vitriolic acid diſſolves iron readily, and forms vitriol (178, u). This ſalt in ſolution is deprived of phlogiſton by the contact of air, and the iron is by that means rendered leſs ſoluble in the acid (233, 1). A quantity of ochreous matter or calx, therefore gradually falls to the bottom in that caſe, and the liquor, as well as the cryſtals, obtained from it by evaporation, are paler.

F Dilute nitrous acid diſſolves iron and forms a ſaline combination incapable of cryſtallizing. Strong nitrous acid corrodes and dephlogiſticates

[illegible]

a conſiderable quantity of iron, which falls to the bottom.

Marine acid likewiſe diſſolves iron, and forms an G
incryſtallizable compound.

The Pruſſian acid precipitates iron from its H
ſolutions in the form of Pruſſian blue (208, w).

Galls and other aſtringent vegetables preci- I
pitate iron from its ſolution in the form of a deep
blue or purple fecula, of ſo intenſe a colour as to
appear black. The infuſion of galls, and alſo the
Pruſſian alkali, are teſts of the preſence of iron
by virtue of the precipitates they throw down.
Acids diſſolve the black precipitate cauſed by
galls: alkalis convert it into a brown ochre. A K
good and durable black ink may be made by the
following directions: To two pints of water add
three ounces of the dark coloured rough ſkinned
Aleppo galls in groſs powder, and of raſped log-
wood, green vitriol, and gum arabic, each an ounce.
This mixture is to be put into a convenient veſſel,
and well ſhaken four or five times a day, for ten or
twelve days, at the end of which time it will be fit
for uſe; though it will improve by remaining
longer on the ingredients. Vinegar inſtead of
water makes a deeper coloured ink; but its action
on pens ſoon ſpoils them.

Iron has a ſtrong affinity with ſulphur. If a L
bar of iron be ſtrongly ignited and a roll of ſul-
phur be applied to the heated end, it will combine
with the iron and form a more fuſible maſs, which
will drop down. A veſſel of water ought to be

placed beneath, for the purpoſe of receiving and extinguiſhing it, as the fumes would otherwiſe be inconvenient to the operator.

M If a mixture of five or ſix pounds of filings of iron be moiſtened with a ſufficient quantity of water to form a paſte, it will, in a certain time, ſwell, become hot, melt, fume, and even take fire. The reſiduum furniſhes martial vitriol. This proceſs is ſimilar to the decompoſition of the martial pyrites (171, D; 150, T; 124, N). The water ſeems to be neceſſary to enable the acid to act on the iron.

N Iron may be alloyed with all metals, except lead and mercury. Its own valuable properties, however, render it unneceſſary to mix it with other metals. A coating of tin defends it from ruſting by the action of the air and other ſolvents, and is accordingly much uſed.

O Tin is a metal of a yellowiſh white colour, not ſubject to ruſt, though its ſcraped or poliſhed ſurface ſoon loſes its brightneſs. It is not quite ſo ſoft as lead, has not much tenacity, and is the leaſt heavy of any of the intire metals. Under the hammer it is beat into leaves of about the thouſandth part of an inch in thickneſs, and might eaſily be beaten to leſs than half that thickneſs, if the purpoſes of trade required it. Long before ignition, it melts at about the 410th degree of Fahrenheit's thermometer, and by continuance of the heat, ſlowly calcines into a white powder. Tin, like lead, is brittle when heated almoſt to fuſion, and being broken by the blow of a hammer, exhibits a grained or fibrous texture. It may alſo be granulated by agitation, at the time of its paſſing from a fluid to a ſolid ſtate (247, K). Its calx reſiſts fuſion more than that of any other metal; and from that property it is uſeful to form an opake white enamel, when mixed with pure glaſs in fuſion.

P The largeſt quantities of tin are found in the county of Cornwall in England. It is alſo found in Saxony, Bohemia, and the peninſula of Malacca in the Eaſt Indies; but rarely in any other countries in ſufficient quantities to pay the charges of working. Native tin is ſeldom met with. The ores of tin are almoſt always calces of that metal in a cryſtallized form, bedded commonly in a ſiliceous matrix. Such are the white tin ſpar, the opake brown or black ore, the garnet ore, which abounds with iron, and the tin ſtone. Theſe are all much heavier than any unmetallic ſubſtance. Tin has been found in Siberia, united with ſulphur.

Q Tin ores, when impure, are cleanſed from heterogeneous particles by pounding and waſhing (229, T). A ſlight previous roaſting renders the ſtony admixtures more friable; and when arſenic is contained in the matrix, it is driven off by a ſtrong heat, continued for a ſhort time, the ore being frequently ſtirred to prevent its fuſion. In the ſmelting, care is taken to add a larger quantity of charcoal than is commonly uſed in other fuſions; and, to avoid a greater heat than is neceſſary to reduce the ore, in order that the loſs of metal, which would otherwiſe happen by calcination, may be prevented as much as poſſible.

R Concentrated vitriolic acid diſſolves tin in a boiling heat. During the ſolution, vitriolic acid air eſcapes, and ſulphur is formed in dark coloured particles, which are ſaid to ſublime in their proper form * in the neck of the retort.

S Nitrous acid acts very powerful on tin. To obtain a perfect ſolution, the metal muſt be added a very little at a time, and all heat avoided; for if much tin be put in at once, the corroſion takes place with great rapidity and heat; and the metal is deprived of ſo much of its phlogiſton, that it falls to the bottom in the form of a white calx, inſoluble in acids (233, 1), and of difficult reduction. The ſalt, formed by the union of tin with the nitrous acid, burns and ſparkles in a red heat.

T If cryſtals of cupreous nitre (252, 2) be groſly pulveriſed, moiſtened, and rolled up in tin-foil, the ſalt deliqueſces, and the nitrous acid begins to act on the tin with heat, nitrous fumes are emitted, the cupreous nitre takes fire, and burns likewiſe the newly formed portion of nitrated tin.

U Marine acid diſſolves tin with the aſſiſtance of heat, and affords cryſtals by evaporation. If corroſive ſublimate be added to tin, divided by previous amalgamation with mercury, the marine acid combines with the tin, and comes over by diſtil-

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* Neumann.

lation, in the form of a ſtrong ſmoking liquid; which, if diluted with water, grows opake, and depoſits calx of tin.

Aqua regia diſſolves tin directly, and when loaded with that metal, has a gelatinous appearance. This ſolution is uſed by dyers for heightening the colours of cochineal, gum-lac, and ſome other red tinctures, from a crimſon to a bright ſcarlet, in the dying of woollens.

Tin combines with ſulphur by fuſion, and forms a brittle maſs leſs fuſible than pure tin. If the amalgam of tin, with half its weight of mercury, be ſet to ſublime with ſulphur and ſal ammoniac, each equal in weight to the mercury, the whole being previouſly well mixed in powder, a ſparkling gold-coloured ſubſtance is obtained, which conſiſts of tin and ſulphur, and is called aurum muſivum. The proceſs is thus explained: as the heat increaſes, the tin, by greater affinity, unites with the marine acid of the ſal-ammoniac, and ſets its volatile alkali at liberty, which flies off, together with a portion of the ſulphur, in the form of an hepar. The ſalited tin riſes by ſublimation, and is found adhering to the ſides of the veſſel. The mercury, which was only added to divide the tin, combines with part of the ſulphur, and forms cinnabar, which alſo ſublimes. And the remaining ſulphur, with the remaining tin, forms the aurum muſivum, which occupies the lower part of the veſſel. It is uſed as a pigment.

Tin

Y Tin unites with all the metals. Clean iron plates, dipped in melted tin, become covered with a thin coating of that metal; and form a very uſeful material for making wholeſome kitchen utenſils, and other articles. In performing this buſineſs it is found neceſſary, either to dip the clean iron previouſly in a ſolution of ſal-ammoniac, or to keep the ſurface of the tin covered with fat and pitch, in order that the appoſition of the two metals may not be prevented by the calces that the contact of air might form on their ſurfaces. Theſe plates, which poſſeſs the cleanlineſs of tin, added to the rigidity of iron, are much uſed. In England they are called tin plates.

Z Pewter is a compound metal, whoſe baſis is tin. The beſt pewter conſiſts of tin allayed with a quantity not exceeding one twentieth of copper, or other metallic bodies, as the experience of the workman has ſhewn to be moſt conducive to the improvement of its hardneſs and colour. The inferior ſorts of pewter contain much lead, have a bluiſh colour, and are ſoft.

A Uſeful compounds are made with tin, and a large proportion of copper (254, M).

CHAP.

C H A P. XIX.

OF THE SEMI-METALS, BISMUTH, NICKEL, REGULUS OF ARSENIC, COBALT, ZINK, REGULUS OF ANTIMONY, OF MANGANESE, OF WOLFRAM, AND OF MOLYBDENA.

BISMUTH is a yellowiſh or rediſh white ſemi-metal, little ſubject to change in the air. It is ſomewhat harder than lead, and ſcarcely, if at all, malleable, being eaſily broken, and even reduced to powder by the hammer. The internal face, when broken, appears compoſed of large ſhining plates, diſpoſed in a variety of poſitions. It melts at the 460th degree of Fahrenheit. Thin pieces are conſiderably ſonorous.

This ſemi-metal is often found native. Its ores are either calciform or ſulphureous.

Biſmuth is ſcarcely ſoluble in the vitriolic acid, and ſtill leſs in the marine. Nitrous acid or aqua regia diſſolves it. The addition of pure water precipitates its calx, and is the criterion by which biſmuth is diſtinguiſhed and purified from all other metals. This white calx, called magiſtery of biſmuth, or Spaniſh white, is uſed as a paint for the complexion, which however it gradually impairs.

Moſt metallic matters unite with biſmuth, and are rendered more fuſible by the addition. It is uſed in making pewter, printers types, ſolder, &c.

The great fuſibility of the mixture of biſmuth, tin, and lead (232, c), renders it of admirable uſe in making collars for the axles of ſome mechanical inſtruments to run in.

F Nickel is a ſemi-metal of a reddiſh white colour, of great hardneſs, ſcarcely yielding to the file, and of an uniform texture. It is very difficult to purify it, and is ſuppoſed, even when as pure as it has hitherto been obtained, to contain iron, as it is magnetical. It is malleable, and ſcarcely more fuſible than pure iron.

G The vitriolic and marine acids do not eaſily attack this ſemi-metal. The nitrous acid and aqua regia diſſolve it readily. Its ſolutions are deep green.

H Regulus of arſenic is of a bright yellowiſh white colour, ſubject to tarniſh, and become black by expoſure to air; very brittle, and of a lamellar texture. By heat it ſublimes partly in the form of calx, and partly unaltered. The fumes are dangerous, and have an offenſive ſmell, reſembling garlick.

I The arſenic met with in commerce is brought chiefly from the cobalt works in Saxony, for making zaffre and ſmalt. The arſenic contained in great quantity in cobalt ores, is driven off by long torrefaction. Theſe fumes paſs into and adhere to the ſides of a very long chimney, conſtructed for that purpoſe. Arſenic is a calx of the regulus, and contains no fixed air. It is ſo far in a saline state as to be soluble in eighty times its weight of water.

The regulus is obtained from this calx, either K by quickly fuſing it together with twice its weight of ſoft ſoap and an equal quantity of mineral alkali, pouring it out, when fuſed, into an hot iron cone; or by mixing it, in powder, with oil, and diſtilling the whole gradually to dryneſs. The regulus ſublimes towards the end. This proceſs is too offenſive to be made but in the open air.

White arſenic previouſly divided by ſolution in L boiling marine acid, is ſo far dephlogiſticated by repeatedly pouring nitrous acid on it, and diſtilling it off, and at laſt raiſing the heat to ignition, that it becomes an acid, in the form of an concrete white maſs, very ſoluble in water, and poſſeſſing peculiar properties. This is the arſenical acid.

The dephlogiſticated marine acid (191, S, T) M likewiſe dephlogiſticates the arſenical calx, and produces the arſenical acid *.

The vitriolic acid diſſolves the regulus of N arſenic by boiling. The marine acid and aqua regia alſo diſſolve it by heat. Nitrous acid dephlogiſticates it (271, L).

Arſenic in any form is a moſt ſtrong poiſon. O

Cobalt is a ſemi-metal of a bluiſh grey colour, P of conſiderable hardneſs, and very brittle. When well purified it is nearly as infuſible as iron. Its

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* Theſe proceſſes are amply deſcribed in Scheele's Chemical Eſſays. London, 1786.

ores are either calciform, or it is mineralized with the vitriolic or arſenical acid. They moſtly abound with arſenic, and contain biſmuth, iron, or other metallic matters.

Theſe ores have not been found in plenty, or at leaſt worked to advantage, except in Saxony. They are valued for the beautiful blue they impart to glaſs, and are manufactured on the ſpot into zaffre and ſmalt. The firſt conſiſts of the calx of cobalt ſimply mixed with pulverized flints, moiſtened and preſſed into caſks. The latter is the ſame calx fuſed into glaſs with vitrifiable earth and alkali, and reduced to a fine powder, by quenching in water and levigation, or rolling in a mill.

Cobalt is eaſily ſoluble in the nitrous acid or in aqua regia, to which it imparts a red colour. The vitriolic acid ſcarcely acts on it, unleſs boiling and highly concentrated. The marine acid has no action on the regulus, but diſſolves the calces.

Zink is a white ſemi-metal, not ſubject to ruſt in the air, harder than either lead or tin, malleable in a certain degree, and ſo tough that a thin piece may be bent ſeveral times backward and forward before it breaks. Its fracture exhibits ſhining facets. Some time before ignition it melts; when ignited it becomes covered with a white calx, and on the heat being raiſed and the ſurface of the metal uncovered, it burns with a very bright flame, at the ſame time that part of the calx [illegible] driven up in the form of a white ſmoke, which floats in the air [illegible] colour [illegible]

The

T The ores of zink are either calces, as the zink-ſpar, and calamine; or mineralized with ſulphur, as in pſeudo-galena or black jack, and blends of various colours. The ſulphureous ores require torrefaction. Zink is obtained from its ores by diſtillation with charcoal, in cloſed veſſels in a reverberatory furnace, the conſtruction being peculiarly adapted to preſerve this volatile and inflammable metal from being diſſipated or calcined.

U Zink is readily diſſolved in acids. White vitriol (179, y) is the only ſaline combination of this metal found in commerce.

V Sulphur has no action on this ſemi-metal: whence it is eaſily purified, by burning ſulphur on its ſurface when in fuſion. Theſe two ſubſtances are united in ores by the medium of iron.

W Zink is chiefly uſed in making braſs and other metallic mixtures of the like nature (253, k, l). It is likewiſe uſed as a ſolder, and known by the name of ſpelter.

X Regulus of antimony is of a ſilvery white, not ſubject to ruſt, very brittle, and of a ſcaly or plated texture. It melts ſoon after ignition, and by a continuance of the heat becomes calcined, and riſes in the form of white fumes. By a more moderate heat it is converted into a grey calx, fuſible into a kind of glaſs.

Y The moſt common ore of this ſemi-metal is the ſubſtance called antimony. It contains ſulphur in combination with the regulus, is of a dark bluiſh metallic colour, and its fracture reſembles long ſhining needles. The regulus may be obtained by torrefaction, by which the ſulphur is driven off, and ſubſequent fuſion with inflammable matters. In the ſmall way, four parts of antimony with three parts of tartar and one and a half of nitre are thrown a little at a time into a red-hot crucible, and the heat raiſed at the end ſo as to fuſe the maſs. The detonation conſumes much of the ſulphur, and the phlogiſton of the tartar revives a conſiderable part of the regulus which is found at the bottom of the crucible. Or, antimony may be thrown on half its weight of ſmall pieces of iron or nails, firſt made white hot in a crucible, and the heat being ſuddenly raiſed, after having covered the crucible, the maſs melts, regulus of antimony being at the bottom, and the iron combined with the ſulphur at the top.

The mineral acids diſſolve regulus of antimony difficultly. The marine acid has very little effect on it; but it is ſoluble in a conſiderable degree in an aqua regia, conſiſting of ſeven parts nitrous and one marine acid, or in a mixture of the vitriolic and marine, or even of the vitriolic and nitrous acids.

Much labour has been beſtowed on this ſemi-metal by the alchemiſts. It furniſhes ſome very powerful remedies, but its medical preparations require the greateſt care and attention; becauſe variations apparently of ſmall importance in the proceſſes are ſufficient to render its effects uncertain, and even highly dangerous.

B Regulus of antimony is uſed in various metallic mixtures, for printing types, ſpeculums, &c.

C The regulus of mangeneſe is a ſemi-metal of a duſky white colour when newly broken, which grows brown by ſpontaneous calcination on expoſure to the air. It appears to be leſs fuſible than iron, the larger pieces being ſcarcely ever globular. It is very hard and brittle, and loſes its phlogiſton in time, ſo as to fall ſometimes into a browniſh black powder, heavier than the regulus; a circumſtance which does not happen when it is incloſed in a dry, well corked bottle. Its powder is magnetic.

D Manganeſe is the calx of this ſemi-metal. Its colour is either white, blue, green, yellow, red, brown, or black, according to its leſs or greater dephlogiſtication and the nature of the ſubſtances it may be contaminated with, of which calx of iron is the chief. The brown or black calx is too much dephlogiſticated to be ſoluble in acids, and attracts phlogiſton more ſtrongly than any other ſubſtance, except pure air and nitrous acid.

E If a globule of microcoſmic ſalt be melted on a piece of charcoal, by means of the blow pipe, and a ſmall portion of the black calx of manganeſe be added, a glaſs will be formed of a bluiſh red, or if the proportion of manganeſe be greater, of a full red. The tinge will however totally diſappear if the fuſion be continued with the interior or well defined apex of the flame. The brown or exterior part of the flame reſtores the colour. And this may be repeatedly done. The ſmalleſt particle of nitre added to the clear glaſs inſtantly reſtores the red colour. But vitriolic ſalts contribute to diſcharge it, as do likewiſe metallic calces, though theſe communicate each a tinge peculiar to itſelf.

The explanation of theſe facts appears to be this: the proper tinge communicated to glaſs by calx of manganeſe, when highly dephlogiſticated, is red; but manganeſe with a greater proportion of phlogiſton is colourleſs. The fuſion by the interior apex may be conſidered as a fuſion in a cloſe veſſel, becauſe the ſurrounding flame defends the globule from the contact of the air on the greater part of its ſurface. The phlogiſton it receives from the charcoal is therefore retained, and produces the effect of rendering the globule tranſparent. But when the exterior flame is uſed, this is not the caſe; for the circumambient air, touching the globule in a much larger part of its ſurface, tends to dephlogiſticate it with more energy, and would carry off more phlogiſton than the ſmall ſurface of contact between the globule and the charcoal is capable of ſupplying. The colour therefore returns. The nitrous acid in nitre dephlogiſticates the manganeſe. Vitriolic ſalts are decompoſed and become ſulphureous by contact of the charcoal, and thus convey phlogiſton. Metallic calces, as well by the fixed air they contain, as by their own nature, have more phlogiſton than the calx of manganeſe, and therefore deſtroy the red colour. That theſe changes do not depend on the greater or leſs quantity of phlogiſton that may be ſuppoſed to be imparted by the interior or exterior apices of the flame, is clear, from the changes not taking place when the globule reſts on a ſupport of pure gold or ſilver.

The ſame phenomena with ſmall variation take place in other glaſſes. Hence a principal uſe of manganeſe is made by the glaſs-makers, in clearing their glaſs from the green tinge imparted to it by calx of iron, from which they cannot with ſufficient facility free the materials they uſe. The green colour ariſes from a calx of iron not ſufficiently dephlogiſticated; manganeſe being therefore added in a certain doſe, receives enough of phlogiſton to render the glaſs colourleſs, as well by the dephlogiſtication of the calx of iron as by its own phlogiſtication. But if the doſe be not duly proportioned, either its own red colour or the green will prevail; the latter of which is thought to be the beſt.

A remarkable effect of the ſtrong attraction of the calx of manganeſe for phlogiſton, is ſeen in the ore called black wad, from Derbyſhire. It is a brown pulverulent maſs, and uſed as a pigment. If half a pound of this be dried before a fire, and afterwards ſuffered to cool for about an hour, and then two ounces of linſeed oil be gradually poured on it, and looſely mixed, in ſomewhat more than half an hour the mixture will grow gradually hot, and at laſt burſt into a flame. This effect ſeems to be analogous to the inflammation of oils by nitrous acid (188, D).

I The vitriolic acid attacks the regulus of manganeſe, and extricates inflammable air. A ſpongy ſubſtance, of the ſame figure as the regulus, however remains, which is probably an impurity. Alkalis precipitate a white calx ſoluble in acids.

K The black calx when well calcined is ſparingly taken up by the vitriolic acid, and this portion ſeems to be that which had not been well cleared of its phlogiſton; for the remainder altogether rejects the acid. That this calx is inſoluble (233, I) for want of a due proportion of plogiſton, is rendered clear, by adding ſugar, honey, or any phlogiſtic ſubſtance, as by that means the ſolution is promoted and completed. The metals, not excepting even gold itſelf, produce the ſame effect.

L The nitrous acid diſſolves regulus of manganeſe with effervеſcence, occaſioned by the production of nitrous air. A ſmall reſidue is left. This acid acts very ſparingly on the black calx.

M The marine acid diſſolves the regulus and alſo the white calx. It likewiſe takes up the black calx, which communicates to it a red colour, and takes as much phlogiſton from the acid as is neceſſary to its ſolution. The dephlogiſticated part flies off in yellow vapours, ſmelling like aqua regia (191, S).

N Regulus of wolfram[*] is a brittle ſemi-metal of a ſteel colour. Its ſpecific gravity exceeds that of every other body in nature, except platina, and gold (17, 18), and it has not been fuſed into any maſs of conſiderable magnitude, being more refractory than iron or manganeſe.

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[*] The diſcoveries of Scheele, Bergman, and the De Luyarts are to be found in "A Chemical Analyſis of Wolfram," printed in London in the year 1785.

The ores of this ſemi-metal are the tungſten, a ponderous ſubſtance of a grey colour and lamellar texture, containing the metallic calx, or acid united to about its own weight of calcareous earth; and wolfram, a mineral of a ſtill greater ſpecific gravity, of a browniſh black, always opake, internally ſhining, almoſt like a metal, and of a cryſtallized form. This laſt is only found in tin mines, and contains about two thirds calx of wolfram, together with the black calx of manganeſe and calx of iron.

If pounded wolfram or tungſten be digeſted in the marine acid, the manganeſe and iron of the former, or the calcareous earth of the latter will be taken up in part, or extracted from the external parts of the molecules. The reſiduum, after edulcoration with water, being digeſted with volatile alkali, the wolfram calx, or acid, will be taken up in part, or extracted from the ſurface. The reſidue, after edulcoration, will be again acted upon by the marine acid, which ſeizes another ſtratum of particles that were in the former digeſtion defended from its action by the wolfram calx, which the digeſtion in volatile alkali has removed. Volatile alkali being again applied, and the alternation continued for many viciſſitudes, [illegible] entirely diſſolved; the portions of acid contain either the calces of manganeſe and iron, or calcareous earth, according to the mineral made uſe of; and the volatile alkali contains the acid of wolfram. The addition of nitrous acid to this laſt precipitates a ſalt, conſiſting of the calx of wolfram, volatile alkali, and nitrous acid. This ſalt is ſoluble in water, though ſparingly, and has acid properties. The firſt diſcoverers, Scheele and Bergman, called it acid of tungſten.

Fuſion of the ore with vegetable alkali, with ſolution in diſtilled water, will afford a ſolution of the calx of wolfram in the alkali. This being evaporated to dryneſs, may be deprived of the alkali by boiling with nitrous acid and decantation, for two or more times. The adhering acid may be driven off by calcination, and leaves the pure calx of a brimſtone yellow. The ſame calx is alſo obtained by calcining the precipitate (280, R) from volatile alkali, the nitrous acid and the alkali being driven off.

The pure calx is not ſoluble in water, but makes, by trituration, an emulſion of ſufficient ſubtlety to paſs the filtre, and which does not entirely ſubſide in three months. It has not this effect with the vitriolic, nitrous, and marine acids. It is completely ſoluble in cauſtic vegetable alkali, by the moiſt as well as the dry way. A ſolution in water, and alſo in volatile alkali of the precipitate by nitrous acid, from the volatile alkali being added to lime-water, regenerates tungſition, the acid and alkali being found in the ſuper-fluent liquor.

From the ſtrong diſpoſition of the calx of wolfram to unite with alkalis and with calcareous earth, and its inſolubility in acids, it may properly be conſidered as a metallic acid, though it may not be ſufficiently dephlogiſticated to exhibit all the uſual properties. v

By treatment in a crucible with charcoal, with a ſtrong heat, the calx of wolfram is revived into a regulus, being a brown maſs, conſiſting of a congeries of metallic globules, with a loſs of two fifths of its weight. Calcination turns it yellow as before, and its weight becomes augmented about one fourth. v

This regulus is inſoluble in the vitriolic and marine acids. The nitrous acid, and aqua regia dephlogiſticate it, and convert it into the yellow calx (280, s). It mixes with other metals, and forms peculiar alloys. Its calces tinge glaſs. w

Molybdena is a mineral ſubſtance, reſembling plumbago, but its laminæ are larger, brighter, and in ſome degree flexible, ſo as to be very difficultly reduced to powder. In an open fire it is almoſt entirely volatile. It is compoſed of ſulphur combined with a metallic acid. No acids act on it but the arſenical and nitrous. The firſt combines with its ſulphur, and forms orpiment: the latter, five times diſtilled from it, carries off the phlogiſton, and leaves the molybdenous and vitriolic acids. This laſt acid may be waſhed off x y with water, which at the ſame time carries off a portion of the acid of molybdena.

Y This acid is in a white dry form, very ſparingly ſoluble in water. It has all the general properties of acids, and others peculiar to itſelf. It is precipitable from its ſolution in water by Pruſſian alkali, and by galls. Diſtilled with three times its weight of ſulphur, it again produces molybdena.

Z It has been reduced into a metallic form.

CHAP. XX.

CONCERNING HEPATIC AND PHOSPHORIC AIRS; PYROPHORI; THE PHOSPHORUS OF BOLOGNA, OF BALDWIN, AND OF CANTON; OILS, ARDENT SPIRIT AND ETHER.

A WHEN an acid is added to any hepar of ſulphur, whether the baſe be a fixed (176, a) or a volatile alkali, or calcareous earth, part of the ſulphur is ſeparated and falls down, and part receives a ſufficient portion of heat to give it the aerial form. This air is called hepatic air. It is ſomewhat heavier than atmoſpheric air; is inflammable when mixed with two thirds of common air; is ſoluble in water, though not permanently ſo: for the ſulphur is gradually depoſited in the courſe of a few weeks. It has the properties of a weak acid. Water ſaturated with this air turns ſilver black.

Phoſphorus, heated * with a ſolution of cauſtic fixed alkali, affords air, in ſome reſpects reſembling ſulphureous hepatic air. It takes fire ſpontaneouſly on communication with the atmoſphere. Bubbles of this air, eſcaping through mercury, flame, crackle, and ſmell like the electric ſpark. It is ſlightly ſoluble in water.

There are many compoſitions that take fire on expoſure to reſpirable air. They are called pyrophori. One of the beſt is thus made. Two parts of burned alum, or alum kept in a red heat till it has ceaſed to expand and ſwell; one part of charcoal, and one part of vegetable fixed alkali being mixed in powder, are to be lightly preſſed into the bowl of a tobacco-pipe, or a ſmall crucible, ſo as to fill it about half or three fourths; the remaining ſpace is to be filled with fine writing ſand, for the purpoſe of preventing the immediate acceſs of air. This veſſel being placed in a good fire, the ſand is agitated for a few minutes by the eſcape of elaſtic fluid, and ſoon afterwards a blue flame is ſeen to iſſue from the maſs, which continues about a quarter of an hour. The red heat being continued for twenty minutes or longer, after

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* This experiment is dangerous, from the probability of the veſſel exploding, and the ſubſequent inflammation of its contents. Small quantities of the materials may probably be managed without riſk. See Kirwan on Hepatic Air. Phil. Tranſ. for 1785.

this appearance has ceaſed, the veſſel may be taken
out of the fire, and when it is perfectly cool, the pyrophorus
may be knocked out, and muſt be immediately
put into a well cloſed phial. A piece of this expoſed
to the air for a ſhort time, becomes ignited, with ſome
ſlight appearances of deflagration, and an hepatic
D ſmell. The particular or immediate cauſe of the
accenſion of pyrophori has not been well explained.
It ſeems as if the phlogiſtic ſubſtance
made uſe of, enters into the compoſition of an
hepar, in which the connection of the inflammable
principle is ſo ſlight, that it can unite with pure
air, with ſufficient rapidity to produce ignition and
combuſtion (125, N.)

E It is a very general property of bodies, after
expoſure for a ſhort time to light, to emit it again
for ſome time after it ceaſes to fall upon them,
as is eaſily proved by receiving them in a darkened
room. Metals and water have not this property*,
neither do ores, vitriols, or oil, poſſeſs it in any
conſiderable degree. Other bodies poſſeſs it in
various degrees. Heat cauſes the light to be
emitted more quickly, and conſequently with
greater intenſity while it laſts, but the luminous
appearance does not take place at all by mere
F heat without previous expoſure to light. It is
ſaid, that coloured light is emitted again of the
ſame colour. Among ſubſtances that poſſeſs
this property in a remarkable degree, the chief
are vitriolated ponderous earth, or ponderous
ſpar, previouſly ignited among charcoal, called

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* Prieſtley's Optics, p. 369.

the Bolognian phoſphorus: nitrated calcareous earth, after ignition, called Baldwin's phoſphorus; and calcareous earth ignited with ſulphur. This laſt is called Canton's phoſphorus, and is thus made. Calcine oyſter-ſhells, by keeping them in a good fire for half an hour or more, and let the whiteſt part be pulverized and ſifted. With three parts of this powder mix one part of flowers of ſulphur. Let the mixture be rammed into a crucible of about one inch and a half in depth, till it be almoſt full, and let it be placed in the middle of the fire, where it muſt be kept red hot for one hour at leaſt, and then ſet by to cool. When it is cold, turn it out, and cutting it into pieces, ſcrape off or ſelect upon trial the brighteſt parts, which, if good, will be a white powder, and may be preſerved in a dry phial with a ground ſtopper. Expoſure for a few ſeconds to the light of the day, will cauſe it to ſhine in the dark; or it may be rendered luminous by an electric exploſion made near it.

Oils are liquids, in general leſs fluid than water, and remarkably leſs ſonorous when poured out. When heated ſo as to fume, they are eaſily ſet on fire, and burn with a luminous flame. If the combuſtion be not managed ſo that reſpirable air may have ſufficient acceſs to all parts of the flame, much ſmoke is produced. They leave a coal behind.

In the combuſtion of oil, for the œconomical purpoſe of giving light, a wick is made uſe of, conſiſting of vegetable fibres, uſually cotton. Theſe being dipped in the oil, one end of the wick made to protrude, and is ſet on fire. The capillary attraction (I, 46, W) ſupplies more oil, accordingly as that in the heated part of the wick is carried off by the rarefaction and combuſtion. If the wick be too large, the internal part of the flame will want air; if it be too long, more oil will iſſue out of its pores in vapor than can be completely burned. In either caſe ſmoke will be produced. But by a due attention to the figure and magnitude of the wick and the ſupply of air, a bright flame may be produced without ſmoke. This is done in the excellent lamp of ARGAND.

K Oils afford phlogiſton, aerial acid, and water. They are diſtinguiſhed into the unguinous and eſſential. The former are inſipid, and without ſmell, not ſoluble in ardent ſpirit, nor volatile in the heat of boiling water. Acid of ſugar has been obtained from them. The latter have a ſtrong ſmell and taſte, are ſoluble in ardent ſpirit, and volatile in the heat of boiling water. Animal fats reſemble unguinous oils, excepting the oil obtained by diſtillation from the gelatinous ſubſtance of animals. This may be brought to reſemble ether by repeated diſtillations. Reſins are of the nature of eſſential oils.

L Spirit of wine, or ardent ſpirit, is obtained by diſtillation from ſubſtances that have undergone the vinous fermentation (212, F, H), and are not arrived at the acetous. When well concentrated, It is very volatile and fluid, has never yet been congealed; mixes with water in all proportions, and with an affinity ſufficiently powerful to take it from moſt ſaline ſubſtances; highly inflammable, ſo as to burn without a wick, even when cold, and produces neither ſoot or coal. Its flame is bluiſh, and not very luminous.

It affords phlogiſton and water, which are probably united by ſome acid. M

Ardent ſpirit unites with acids, and renders them milder than can be ſuppoſed to ariſe from mere dilution. N

If vitriolic acid be added to ſpirit of wine, and the mixture ſubmitted to diſtillation, the products are firſt a very pure ſpirit of wine, next a liquor called vitriolic ether, and, laſtly, an oil. In this proceſs it appears, that the action or combination of the acid is capable of converting the ſpirit into oil; and that ether is an intermediate ſubſtance between ſpirit and oil. O

Ether is ſoluble in ten times its weight of water. It is extremely light (18, W), and ſo volatile, as to convert water into ice in a warm room, if the water be included in a ſmall bottle, or tube, conſtantly wetted on the outſide with this fluid (123, K). It is highly inflammable, burning with a white luminous flame, and ſome appearance of ſoot, but leaves no coal. P

Ethers may be made with other acids as well as the vitriolic. Q

BOOK

BOOK III.

SECTION II.

Of Magnetiſm.

CHAP. I.

CONCERNING MAGNETISM; THE METHODS OF COMMUNICATING IT, AND THE VARIATION OF THE COMPASS.

A THAT remarkable property which iron poſſeſſes, of becoming magnetical, ſeems to ſtand alone among natural phenomena. It is the only inſtance of permanent attraction which is ſufficiently ſtrong to become the object of vulgar attention; and philoſophers obſerve its effects with ſurprize and admiration, while the moſt cautious and rational are obliged to confeſs that the cauſe is entirely unknown.

B A ſtrait bar of iron, which in the northern parts of the world has ſtood a long time in a vertical poſition, is found to have acquired the property of attracting other iron at its extremities; and, if ſupported in a veſſel, ſo as to float at liberty upon water, conforms itſelf to a direction nearly in the plane of the meridian; the end, which during its perpendicular ſituation was downwards, always pointing towards the North. This bar is ſaid to be magnetical; and the unknown cauſe of theſe and other concomitant effects is called magnetiſm.

Magnetiſm may be given to iron, or rather ſteel, by many methods. The diſpoſition to conform to the plane of the meridian is called polarity, and is of ſuch importance in its application, that the modern art of navigation could not be practiſed without it. The mariner's compaſs is thus conſtructed. A flat thin bar of ſteel, rendered magnetical, is faſtened underneath a circular card, divided into points (56, K), ſo that the direction of its length may correſpond with the line N S (fig. 132.) This bar is perforated in the middle; and in the perforation is fixed a braſs cap, hollowed out conically, which conſequently is in the center of the card. The card thus provided with a magnetical bar, is then ſupported horizontally, by placing the cavity of the cap on an upright metallic point, and is therefore at liberty to revolve into any horizontal poſition. But the bar, which is uſually termed the needle, conforming itſelf to the meridian, cauſes the fleur de lis of the card to point to the North; conſequently, the other diviſions muſt denote the reſpective bearings of the points of the compaſs. This card being thus ſuſpended in a hollow box, and defended from the wind by a pane of glaſs, with the addition of a contrivance to prevent the effects of the agitation of the ſhip, is the mariner's compaſs; by the help of which, veſſels are enabled to ſteer their courſe with ſafety in the darkeſt night, and at any diſtance from ſhore.

D In the examination of the magnetiſm of various bodies, as, for example, platina (240, B) or nickel, it may be of importance to know the degrees of magnetiſm as diſcoverable by experiment; which are the following. The weakeſt is when a body floating on water ſlowly follows a ſtrong magnet, held almoſt touching it; the next is when the magnet can repel as well as attract the body; a ſtill ſtronger degree is, when the body conforms its poſition to that of the magnet held over it; the fifth is, when the body left to itſelf aſſumes a particular poſition, and returns to it when diſturbed; the ſixth is, when the body, taken out of the water, and brought near a light compaſs needle, cauſes it to deviate from the magnetic meridian. All ſtronger degrees of magnetiſm may be obſerved by leſs delicate methods.

E The ends of a ſimple magnetical bar are called its poles; and that pole, which, when at liberty, would point to the North is called the North-pole, and the other is called the South-pole.

F Univerſally, in two magnetical bodies or magnets, an attractive force obtains between the North-pole of one, and the South-pole of the other, and a repulſive force obtains between poles of the ſame name. But the repulſive force which exiſts between poles of like names, but unequal power, is changed into attraction, when the diſtance is ſufficiently ſmall. From theſe criterions it is eaſy to determine the names of the poles of a magnetical bar, by applying it near the ſuſpended magnet, whoſe poles are known.

G If a bar of iron, which is not magnetical, be held in a vertical poſition, in North latitude; its lower point becomes a North, and its upper a South pole; and theſe poles may be reverſed inſtantly, and as often as required, by reverſing the poſition of the ends; for the lower will always be North, and the upper South. But a few ſtrokes with a hammer at the upper end, will fix the poles in their laſt poſition, ſo that, after the reverſing it, the hammered end will ſtill continue to be ſouth, though loweſt. Yet, the magnetical power is much the greateſt when the hammered end is uppermoſt, and the effect of the hammering diſappears in a few hours.

H A bar of iron being ſuſpended on an axis, in a very nice equilibrium, the North end preponderates when the bar is rendered magnetical, ſo that it becomes inclined to the horizon, in an angle of about ſeventy degrees in theſe latitudes. This is called the dip, and decreaſes in places more to the ſouthward, and even becomes inverted in places ſituated conſiderably on the other ſide of the equator. The bar thus ſuſpended is termed the dipping-needle.

i Magnetiſm may be given to a bar of iron, by placing it firm in the poſition of the dipping-needle, and rubbing it hard all one way with a poliſhed ſteel inſtrument. Iron alſo becomes magnetical by ignition, and quenching it in water, in the poſition of the dipping-needle.

k The touch of a magnet communicates the like virtue to other iron, but the quantity or degree which the ſame magnet can communicate, depends greatly upon the manner in which the touch is performed. If two equal, ſtrait and uniform magnetical bars, with flat ends, be placed together endwiſe, the contrary poles touching each other, they will form one ſingle magnet, and will communicate a ſtrong degree of magnetiſm to another bar by the following proceſs: let the laſt mentioned bar be laid in the direction of the magnetical meridian, and let the others, each of which ought to be at leaſt as long as the bar to be impregnated, be laid upon it in their conjoined ſtate, ſo that the place of junction may be over the middle of its length, and their poles in the proper direction. Then ſeparate the two magnets, by drawing them aſunder along the ſurface of the bar, and continue to ſeparate them till their ends are at a conſiderable diſtance from its ends. Join them again, without altering the ſituation of their poles, by a circular motion of the hand, ſo that they may meet at ſome diſtance above the center of the bar, and lay them again upon it as before.

Repeat this operation on both ſides of the bar till it has acquired a ſufficient degree of magnetiſm. The maximum is generally obtained after twelve or fourteen ſtrokes.

A bar of iron receives the touch more ſtrongly L when it is ſupported by, or in contact with, another much larger; and a combination of magnetical bars will produce a much greater effect than a ſingle one. Soft ſteel acquires the magnetical power more readily, but does not preſerve it ſo long as hard ſteel. On theſe, and other conſiderations, experiments have been multiplied, and various methods invented of giving to ſteel the utmoſt degree of magnetiſm it is capable of receiving. For example, ſix bars of ſteel may be M rendered ſlightly magnetical, by affixing each ſucceſſively to a poker, and ſtroking it ſeveral times from bottom to top with the lower end of an old pair of tongs; care being taken to keep both the poker and tongs in a vertical poſition. For, theſe utenſils, by long ſtanding in a vertical poſition, are almoſt always poſſeſſed of a fixed magnetiſm; the lower ends being North poles. Now, if four of the ſix bars be united into a thick compound bar, the magnetiſm of the remaining two may be greatly increaſed by touching with it. Theſe two bars may then be ſubſtituted in the room of the two outermoſt in the compound bar, which will become more powerful by the exchange, and the two, which were taken from the compound bar, may be touched in their turn. Thus, by reiterated changes, and touching, the bars will at length acquire as much magnetiſm as they are ſuſceptible of, and more than they can retain for any long time.

N The force of magnetiſm is exerted through all ſubſtances, iron excepted, and it has not been obſerved, that it ſuffers the leaſt diminution by the interpoſition of any foreign matter. Magnetiſm is deſtroyed by ignition; and a heated bar of iron is not attracted by the magnet till it is juſt upon the point of loſing its redneſs.

O The loadſtone is a ponderous ore of iron, uſually of a dirty black color, and hard enough to emit ſparks with ſteel. It is found in moſt parts of the world, and poſſeſſes a natural magnetiſm, acquired moſt probably from its ſituation or poſition with reſpect to the earth. This magnetiſm may be, as it were, concentrated, and made to act much more ſtrongly by covering its polar extremities with ſteel. The ſteel thus applied is termed the armour of the loadſtone, and requires ſome management, as to figure and thickneſs, to produce the greateſt poſſible effect. Formerly all magnetiſm was originally obtained by communication from the loadſtone, but the power of impregnated ſteel-bars ſo much exceeds that of the natural ſtone, that this latter is little eſteemed, except as an object of curioſity. The magnetiſm of the loadſtone is in all reſpects ſimilar to that of a bar of iron or ſteel.

P The attraction or repulſion of two magnets decreaſes as the diſtance increaſes, but not according to any ratio of the diſtance. On this account a magnetical bar, which is at liberty to aſſume any horizontal poſition, as, for example, a needle floated on water by means of cork, or the needle of a mariner's compaſs, being brought into the vicinity of another magnet, will aſſume ſuch a ſituation as ſhall conform to the attractive and repulſive powers as much as poſſible. Thus, if a ſuſpended magnetical needle be brought near another magnet, it will place itſelf in a poſition parallel to the axis of the magnet, if the poles of contrary names in each be mutually equidiſtant; but if the North pole of the ſuſpended needle be nearer the South pole of the magnet than the two other poles are to each other, its North end will be moſt attracted, and conſequently muſt incline, ſo that the axes of the two magnets will form an angle greater or leſs, according to circumſtances. Suppoſe now a ſmall magnetical bar, ſuſpended ſo as to be capable of aſſuming any poſition whatſoever, be placed upon, or near the ſurface of a very large globular magnet. It is evident, in this caſe, that the two ends of the ſmall bar, being reſpectively attracted by the contrary poles of the globe, will always be found in a plane paſſing through thoſe poles: or, in other words, if circles or meridians be ſuppoſed to be deſcribed on the globe, interſecting each other in thoſe poles, the magnetical bar muſt always be in the plane of one of them. But its ſituation, with regard to the ſpherical ſurface, will be governed by the exceſs of attraction in the neareſt pole. If the bar be ſuſpended immediately over the North pole of the magnet, it muſt ſtand perpendicularly, with its South end downwards; but if it be gradually removed along the ſurface, towards the South pole, the increaſing action of this laſt pole will cauſe it gradually to incline that way. At the equator it will reſt parallel to the ſurface; and in approaching ſtill nearer the laſt mentioned pole, its North end will incline towards the ſurface, till at length it will ſtand perpendicularly over the South pole of the great magnet, with its North end downwards. For the ſake of conciſeneſs, the poles of the great magnet are ſuppoſed to be equally ſtrong; which, however, is ſeldom the caſe.

7 This reaſoning may be exemplified by placing a ſmall piece of ſewing-needle on the ſurface of a ſpherical magnet or loadſtone. Its poſition is found to vary according to its ſituation with reſpect to the poles. For the ſame reaſons, ſteel-filings, gently duſted through a rag upon a magnet, adhere to it in a very curious and amuſing manner. The filings, acquiring magnetiſm by the contact, adhere together, and form a number of ſmall magnets, which arrange themſelves in conformity to the attractions of the poles of the original magnet.

8 From obſervations of this nature, it was very early ſuppoſed, that the globe of the Earth acts as a large magnet, upon all other magnets: whence they naturally tend to conform to the meridian or

line which joins the poles of the Earth. And the dipping of the needle is readily ſhewn to ariſe from the vicinity, and conſequent ſtronger attraction of the pole towards which the inclination is made. The needle of the mariner's compaſs varies from the true direction of North and South. The angle formed between the magnetical axis of the needle and the meridian of a given place is called the variation of the compaſs, and differs in different places both in quantity and direction of the needle. From the phenomena of the variation it is proved, that the magnetic poles of the Earth muſt be more in number than two, and that they do not coincide with the poles about which the diurnal rotation is performed.

The variation of the compaſs does not continue fixed and unalterable at a given place. Thus, at the Cape of Good Hope in Africa, near which, at its firſt diſcovery by the Portugueſe, there was no variation; the North point of the compaſs, in 1622, varied about 2°. to the weſtward; in 1675, it varied 8°. W. in 1700, about 11°. W. in 1756, about 18°. W. and in 1774, about 21½°. W. Regular, though very different mutations have been obſerved in almoſt every other place on the globe. The needle of the compaſs is likewiſe ſubject to a ſmall diurnal change of poſition, and is ſometimes conſiderably agitated during the appearance of the aurora borealis.

The obſervations which relate to the magnetiſm of the Earth have not been continued long enough to afford a foundation for a good theory. Dr. Halley's hypotheſis, though formed near a century ago, ſtill poſſeſſes as great a ſhare of probability as moſt that have been offered ſince. He ſuppoſes the Earth to conſiſt of two diſtinct parts, an external ſhell, or hollow ſphere, and an internal nucleus or globe, looſe and detached in the cavity, having the ſame center of gravity with the external part. Each of theſe parts he regards as a ſeparate magnet, endued with two poles, their magnetical axes not being coincident. A compaſs-needle on the external ſurface muſt therefore be acted upon, as if by a magnet with four poles. From the phenomena he determines the ſituation of the ſeveral poles; and thus explains the variation. But as the variation changes in proceſs of time at any given place, it follows, that theſe poles do not keep the ſame poſition with reſpect to the ſurface of the Earth, and to each other. This movement he accounts for, by ſuppoſing that the diurnal motion of the Earth was impreſſed from without, and that the velocity of the internal part, or nucleus, is ſomewhat leſs than that of the external part, or ſhell. Conſequently the nucleus muſt ſeem to revolve ſlowly to the weſtward, and its poles muſt deſcribe leſſer circles about the poles of the Earth. And as the relative poſition of the four magnetical poles to each other, and to the poles of the Earth, is changed, ſo muſt likewiſe the direction of the needle, or the angle it makes with the meridian, be altered.

Thus, a kind of regularity prevails in the increaſe and decreaſe of the variation, and alſo the direction of the variation which ſhips obſerve as they ſail to various parts of the ocean. In the Atlantic ocean to the North, and eaſtward, and all over the Indian ocean, except in the bay of Bengal, a weſterly variation obtains; but to the weſtward of a certain line, at which there is no variation, all along the coaſt of South America, and in the Pacific ocean, as far as the 140th degree of weſt longitude, an eaſterly variation is obſerved; and in the whole Pacific ocean beſides, the variation is probably to the weſt, unleſs it may be conjectured that an eaſterly variation may be found in the regions to the northward.

When the variation changes quickly in running upon a parallel, as is the caſe in the ſouthern Atlantic, and great part of the Indian ocean, the longitude may be determined with a conſiderable degree of correctneſs at ſea. For the magnetic azimuth of the Sun may be eaſily obſerved in moderate weather to the certainty of a leſs error than ten minutes of a degree; which in the ſouthern Atlantic ocean anſwers to about twice that quantity in longitude. By comparing the obſerved variation with a chart, the longitude may be known. The principal impediment in the way of this method is, the want of ſuch a chart occaſionally renewed.

A The beſt modern opinion concerning the cauſe of the change of variation of the compaſs is this. From the magnetiſm of the Earth as well as from the products ejected by volcanos (227, F), it is eſtabliſhed that vaſt quantities of iron exiſt in the bowels of the Earth in various ſtates. The ſame volcanic eruptions, and the phenomena accompanying them, likewiſe ſhew that chemical proceſſes, on a ſcale of prodigious magnitude, are continually carried on in thoſe regions. The ferruginous combinations being varied by theſe, it muſt happen that immenſe maſſes will be either more or leſs phlogiſticated, according to the nature of the proceſs by which ſuch change is made. Now it is well known that iron and its combinations are more ſuſceptible of magnetiſm the nearer the metal approaches to the reguline ſtate: and conſequently the properties of the whole terreſtrial magnet muſt change accordingly.

BOOK III.

SECT. IV.

Concerning Electricity.

CHAP. I.

OF THE ELECTRIC MATTER; AND THE METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MAKING EXPERIMENTS WITH IT.

IF a tube of glaſs, an inch and half in diameter and about three feet long, be rubbed, by repeatedly drawing the hand or a piece of leather from one end to the other, it will become electric. So that ſmall flaſhes of divergent flame, ramified ſomewhat like trees bare of leaves, will dart into the air, from many parts of the ſurface of the tube, to the diſtance of ſix or eight inches, attended with a crackling noiſe; and ſometimes ſparks of more than a foot in length will fly along the tube to the rubber. This luminous matter is called electricity, or the electric matter, and will fly from the tube to other bodies brought within a certain diſtance. A

If

B If a homogeneous body be preſented to the ex-
cited tube, ſo as to receive electricity from it, and
the electricity remain at or near the end or part
preſented, without being communicated to the reſt
of the body, it is called a non-conductor or elec-
C tric. But if, on the contrary, the electricity be thus
communicated to every part, the body is called a
D conductor, or non-electric. In the uſual tempe-
rature of the atmoſphere, metallic ſubſtances, char-
coal, and water are conductors; moſt other bodies
are non-conductors.

E A conductor cannot be electrified while it com-
municates with the earth, either by direct contact
or by the interpoſition of other conductors, becauſe
the electricity is immediately conveyed away to
F the earth. But if a conductor be ſupported by an
electric, ſo as not to communicate with the earth,
it is ſaid to be inſulated.

G The greateſt quantity of electricity is collected on the ſurface of a non-conductor, when it is rubbed by a conducting ſubſtance. If the rubber be inſulated, it will alſo be put into an electric ſtate, ſo that ſparks will paſs between it and other neighbouring bodies.

H If an inſulated conductor be electrified, either by friction, communication, (302, B) or otherwiſe, it will be deprived of its electric ſtate by the drawing of a ſingle ſpark from any part thereof by another uninſulated conductor, becauſe of the facility with which the electric matter is conveyed through its ſubſtance. But non-conductors, ſimilarly treated, are

are deprived of their electric ſtate only in the vicinity of the place from which the ſpark was drawn.

A mutual attraction is exerted between a body I in a ſtate of electricity, and other non-electrified bodies, which laſt, if not large and heavy, will fly through the air to the electrified body, where they remain till they have, by communication, acquired the ſame ſtate, when they are repelled. If an uninſulated conductor be at hand, it will attract the ſmall body thus electrified, and deprive it of its electric ſtate. So that it will be again attracted by the electrified body, and repelled as before, and will continue to paſs and repaſs between the two for many viciſſitudes, till the electric ſtate is entirely deſtroyed.

No experiments have yet been made, that ſhew K wherein the difference between electrics and non-electrics conſiſts; but whatever the conducting power may depend on, it ſeems to be governed by the heat of the body: glaſs, reſin, baked wood, air, and many other non-conductors, are conductors when made very hot; and, on the contrary, ice cooled to 13° below 0, on Fahrenheit's ſcale, becomes a non-conductor, or electric body.

There is therefore ſome ground to conjecture L that the diſpoſition to conduct electricity is produced in metals by a very low degree of heat, in water by a greater, and in reſins and glaſs by degrees ſtill greater; or generally that there is a certain degree of heat at which a given body may be at the medium between perfect conducting, and non-conducting, above which degree it becomes a M conductor, and beneath, a non-conductor. If this be true, it will follow, that conductors are bodies whoſe electric or non-conducting ſtate is placed at a temperature far below that which is uſual in the atmoſphere, and that non-conductors are thoſe whoſe conducting ſtate is placed at a degree of heat far above the mean temperature.

N That electricity is real matter, and not a mere property, ſeems to be evident from a variety of circumſtances. When it paſſes between bodies, it divides the air, and puts it into thoſe undulations (65, N) in which ſound conſiſts. It emits the rays of light in every direction, and thoſe rays are variouſly refrangible, and colorific, as other light is. And if light be acknowledged to be matter, it is contrary to reaſon and experience to ſuppoſe, that the thing which emits it ſhould not likewiſe be material. Neither are the other ſenſes unaffected at its preſence; its ſmell is ſtrongly phoſphoreal or ſulphureous, ſo that when the air of a room is rendered highly electric, many perſons have complained of an unuſual and diſagreeable ſenſation in the head from that cauſe. The ſenſe of feeling is a witneſs of its preſence, not only from the ſparks, which, when received from the conductor of a powerful machine, are very pungent, and will paſs through two or three perſons ſtanding on the ground, but alſo from the ſhock, whoſe effects are to be deſcribed; and a ſtream of the electric matter received on the tongue has an evidently ſubacid taſte, which remains ſome little time after.

As the exciting a tube is very laborious for the O operator, and the electricity procured by that means is ſmall in quantity, globes or cylinders are much more uſed. Theſe, by a proper apparatus, are made to revolve on their axes after the manner of a grindſtone, and a rubber of leather is applied to the equatorial parts of the revolving glaſs, which become electrical by the friction. The electricity of the globe is received by a metallic conductor, inſulated by a glaſs-foot, or ſupporter. This conductor being conſtantly electrified, and at the ſame time ſteady and motionleſs, is much better adapted for making experiments than the globe itſelf.

A cylinder or globe thus fitted up to revolve on P its axis, and provided with a rubber and an inſulated conductor, is called an electrical machine. The contrivances for the revolution of the cylinder or globe vary in different machines, as likewiſe the method of inſulating the conductor. The conductor is in general ſupported by a ſtick of varniſhed glaſs or baked wood, and ſometimes it is ſuſpended by ſilk-ſtrings.

Fig. 162. repreſents an electrical machine. Q The glaſs cylinder C, is one foot in diameter and nineteen inches long, and is turned by a wheel and ſtring, as ſhewn in the drawing. The rubber or cuſhion is ſupported behind the cylinder by two upright ſprings that appear beneath, and are

faſtened to two croſs bars of
ductor ſupported on two p
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and at the other end the
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CHAP. II.

CONCERNING EXCITATION; THE TWO DIFFERENT STATES OF ELECTRICITY, AND THE EFFECTS OF POINTED CONDUCTORS.

VERY little electricity is excited by the friction between two electrics or two conductors. The moſt favourable circumſtances for producing this effect, ſeem to be, when a perfect electric is rubbed by a perfect conductor (302, c).

The rubber of an electrical machine is uſually made of ſoft leather ſtuffed with hair, and the rubbing part is ſmeared with an amalgam of zink and quickſilver with a little tallow, the whole being ſo proportioned as to have the conſiſtence of paſte. The glaſs cylinder in its rotation, paſſing in contact with this metallic ſoft ſubſtance, becomes electrified, and its electricity is prevented from flying back in ſparks to the rubber or being diſſipated into the air, by a piece of ſilk ſewed to the rubber, and paſſing thence half way round the cylinder, to which it adheres by the electric attraction.

The electricity thus excited, is much ſtronger in dry froſty weather than when the atmoſphere is damp, and conſequently a better conductor of electricity. The management of the operator will alſo make a prodigious difference. No theory of what happens in the excitation of electrics, has been offered that deſerves to be mentioned; and it is owing to our imperfect knowledge of this ſubject, that the moſt ſkilful operators ſucceed by an attention to circumſtances relating to the conſiſtence of the amalgam, the roughneſs or ſmoothneſs of its ſurface, its freſhneſs, the poſition and management of the ſilk, and other matters that can hardly be deſcribed, ſo as to aſſiſt the young electrician. The following directions however ſucceed very well.

v Every part of the apparatus muſt be carefully wiped with a dry warm cloth, or old ſilk handkerchief, in order that the electricity, when collected, may not be conducted off by adhering moiſture or damp (302, D). The amalgam ought to abound with quickſilver, and to have no more tallow than is ſufficient, when applied to the cylinder, juſt to diminiſh its brightneſs without ſmearing. It muſt be rubbed on the rough ſide of a piece of leather, paſted on a card, in very ſmall quantity. The cuſhion and ſilk muſt be carefully bruſhed or wiped before it is put in its place. This done, turn back the ſilk ſo that its looſe part may not touch the cylinder, and begin to turn the machine, at the ſame time applying the amalgamed leather to the cylinder. After a few turns the electricity will be heard in a kind of ruſtling noiſe near the hand and cuſhion. Remove then the almagamed leather, and replace the ſilk on the cylinder, to which it will immediately adhere. The friction will now be much greater than before, as will be perceived by the difficulty of turning the handle, and the electricity will be ſeen along the edge of the ſilk in long diverging ramifications that dart into the air with noiſe. Theſe fly to the points of the prime conductor when applied, and, by means of this laſt, the ſparks may be drawn, or other experiments performed.

It is not well ſettled whether a velocity of rotation in the cylinder, greater than the hand can produce with a ſingle winch, be of any advantage in electricity. From a few trials, not ſufficiently diverſified, the fact ſeems to be, that there is a certain velocity of turning by which more electricity is obtained, in a given number of turns, than by any velocity conſiderably greater or leſs; and that this neceſſary velocity is leaſt when the excitation is moſt powerful. A cylinder of ſeven inches diameter, well excited, will afford its maximum of electricity in a turn by a moderate revolution with a ſingle winch, and the adheſion of the ſilk will render the turning ſufficiently laborious. But whether the labour of the operator would be better employed in producing more turns in a given time by means of a wheel, though the excitation were leſs powerful, remains to be decided.

If the amalgam be applied on the cuſhion itſelf, inſtead of a ſeparate leather, the excitation will be more uniformly the ſame, though rather leſs ſtrong. When the ſeparate leather is uſed, it is neceſſary to apply it to the cylinder from time to time, to keep up the excitation. One of the chief advantages of this laſt method appears to be, that a ſtrong excitation may at any time be produced by taking off the cuſhion and wiping it and the ſilk very clean, at the ſame time that the old amalgam is ſcraped off the leather and replaced by the ſize of a pea of freſh amalgam; whereas in the other method, it not unfrequently happens, that the operator is obliged to have recourſe to a variety of manœuvres without ſucceſs.

y If of two conductors, ſeparately inſulated, one be connected with the inſulated rubber, and the other placed near the cylinder, ſo as to be electrified by it, they will both exhibit ſigns of electricity; but that conductor, which is electrified by the cylinder, will attract thoſe bodies which are repelled by the other conductor that received its electricity from the rubber. And theſe conductors, if brought near each other, will emit ſparks, and act on each other in every reſpect ſtronger than on other bodies. If they be brought into contact, the electricity of the one will deſtroy that of the other; and notwithſtanding the electric matter appears to flow or paſs from the cylinder to its conductor, the two thus conjoined will exhibit few or no ſigns of electricity.

z The ſenſes cannot diſtinguiſh the direction in which the electric matter moves. The hypotheſis moſt generally admitted, is that electricity is an uniform fluid, capable of being rarefied or condenſed,

denſed, and that in the common electrical machine it paſſes from the cylinder to the conductor with points. On this ſuppoſition this conductor muſt, when electrified, poſſeſs a greater quantity than is natural to it; and ſince the cylinder affords very little electricity when the rubber is inſulated, it will follow that it receives its electricity from the rubber; for unleſs the rubber be at liberty to receive an equal quantity from the earth, that is, unleſs it be uninſulated, it can part with but a very ſmall quantity to the cylinder. Still retaining the ſame ſuppoſition reſpecting the courſe of the electric matter, it follows that the rubber, when inſulated, muſt loſe a part of its natural quantity by friction with the cylinder, and conſequently a conductor communicating with it muſt be negatively electrified. It is not therefore ſo much to be wondered at, that the actions of the two conductors ſhould be contrary, and that when in contact they ſhould exhibit no ſigns of electricity; for the cylinder at the ſame inſtant that it imparts the electric matter to one conductor exhauſts an equal quantity from the other, which is connected with the rubber. If the direction of the electric matter be ſuppoſed to be contrary to what is here aſſumed, the effects muſt ſtill be the ſame.

The principal circumſtance whereon the prevailing opinion concerning this direction is founded is, that if the conductor which derives its electricity from the cylinder be made ſharp or angular at any part, not very near the cylinder, a diverging cone of electric light will be ſeen, whoſe vertex is the point itſelf, and the electric phenomena will be much diminiſhed. But the conductor, which is connected with the rubber, though its effects be equally diminiſhed by a ſimilar circumſtance, will never exhibit the cone of rays, but is only tipped at the point with a ſmall globular body of light. The cone has been thought to reſemble the ruſhing out or emitting of light, and the globe the appearance of the imbibing or entrance of the electric matter; whence the name of poſitive electricity has been adopted for that of the cylinder, and negative for that of the rubber. The terms will be uſed in the ſame ſenſe, in this work, though it muſt be confeſſed, that the propriety of their application is ſtill doubtful.

B If electricity be produced by the excitation of a globe or cylinder of ſulphur or reſin, the ſtates will be reverſed; the rubber will be poſitive, and the cylinder, with its conductor, will be negative. This was formerly thought to depend on the nature of the electric body, and the two ſtates of electricity were diſtinguiſhed by the names of vitreous and reſinous electricity; but it has ſince been found, that the difference, in moſt caſes, ariſes from the relative ſmoothneſs of the ſurfaces of the electric body and its rubber when compared with each other.

C It ſeems to be a rule, that the ſmootheſt of the two bodies obtains the poſitive ſtate. Baked wooden cylinders, with a ſmooth rubber of oiled ſilk, become negative, but with a rubber of flannel poſitive. Glaſs, made rough by grinding with emery, excited with new ſoft flannel, is negative; but with dry oiled ſilk, rubbed with whiting, poſitive; but if the glaſs be ſmeared with tallow, and wiped with a cloth, then the oiled ſilk, by rubbing, becomes poliſhed, and the tube becomes negative, as at firſt; if the oiled ſilk be again rubbed with whiting, it excites a poſitive ſtate on the greaſed tube; but when the ſilk has again acquired a poliſh, the tube becomes again negative. Even poliſhed glaſs may be rendered negative by rubbing with the hairy ſide of a cat's ſkin.

Bodies poſſeſſed of ſimilar and equal ſtates of D electricity, repel each other; bodies poſſeſſed of oppoſite ſtates of electricity, attract each other; and bodies in a mean or natural ſtate are attracted by all electrified bodies whatever. But as we have no clear conception, or adequate idea, of any mechanical proceſs by which attraction may be cauſed, all our reaſoning on the ſubject muſt be purely hypothetical (I. 25, x), for want of probable grounds to proceed on. If ever this property of matter, whoſe origin at preſent is ſo little underſtood, ſhould be deduced from ſome ſimpler cauſe, there is great reaſon to think that it will be in conſequence of electrical diſcoveries.

If the inſulated prime conductor of a machine E be well poliſhed, and without corners or angles, it will retain its electric ſtate very well, and will emit ſtrong ſparks upon the approach of any uninſulated conductor. If the uninſulated conductor be broad, round, and poliſhed at the end, the ſparks will be ſhort and denſe, and will produce a conſiderable ſound; if leſs broad, the ſpark will be long, crooked, and leſs ſounding; if the breadth be ſtill more diminiſhed, the conductor begins to come under the denomination of a pointed body (311. A), the electric matter paſſes to it from the prime conductor, through a great ſpace of air with a hiſſing or ruſtling noiſe, and in a continual ſtream: a ſtill greater ſharpneſs enables the electricity to paſs over a greater ſpace, but ſilently, and nothing is ſeen but a ſmall light upon the point. If a ſimilar point iſſue from the prime conductor, and the uninſulated conductor be round and poliſhed, the ſame effects happen in like ſituations; but if both be pointed, the electricity is more readily diſcharged: and in all theſe caſes the appearance of the electric matter at the point of the prime conductor will be that which is peculiar to its electricity, a large divergent cone if poſitive, or a ſmall globular light or cone if negative, and the light at the point preſented to the prime conductor will be diſtinctive of the contrary electricity. Whether a pointed conductor be electrified poſitively or negatively, if the noſe be brought near the point during the electrization, a wind will be felt blowing from the point, and the ſenſe will be affected with a ſulphureous or phoſphoreal ſmell.

The reaction of the force by which the air is put into motion, is exerted on the pointed body. This is ſhewn by a pleaſing experiment with an electrified wire, thus; to the middle of the wire, or rather between two wires that lie in the ſame line, is affixed a center-cap like thoſe uſed in ſea-compaſſes, ſo that the wire may eaſily be moved on a point in an horizontal direction, as magnetical needles are; and the ends of the wire are pointed and bent contrary ways, to point in the direction of the tangent to the circle deſcribed by them. Now if this wire thus ſuſpended on a point, be inſulated and electrified, its ſharp ends will become luminous, and it will revolve in a direction contrary to that in which its ends are bent; or if it be ſuſpended on an uninſulated point, and brought near the electrified prime conductor, the ſame effect will follow.

It may be thought ſtrange that the air ſhould iſſue from an electrified point, whether its electricity be poſitive or negative. It is eaſy to conceive that the iſſuing out of the electric matter may cauſe the air to move in the ſame direction, but it appears ſtrange, that the electric matter ruſhing towards a point ſhould cauſe the air to move directly contrary, that is to ſay, likewiſe from the point. But if the circumſtance be examined more narrowly, the difficulty will vaniſh. For it is highly probable that the electric matter paſſes too ſwiftly (1. 40, z) to excite any motion in the air but that undulation wherein ſound conſiſts (65, N); to which may be added that, if the electric matter do act on the air to put it in motion, the air muſt react with an equal force; and therefore that a current of air blown againſt the courſe of the electric matter muſt affect its appearance, by retarding the rays and deflecting thoſe againſt which it ſtruck obliquely; the contrary to which is, by experience, known to obtain; for the luminous cones (314, E) are not ſenſibly affected by ſuch treatment. The air being thus indifferent as to the motion of the electric matter, its motion may be ſhewn to depend on the eſtabliſhed principles of electricity. The point is electrified either poſitively or negatively, and the air, immediately oppoſite and contiguous to the point, muſt, by the emiſſion or exhauſtion of the electric matter, become ſtrongly poſſeſſed of an electric ſtate of the ſame kind with that of the point: it is therefore repelled (313, D) and replaced by other air which is alſo electrified and repelled, by which means a conſtant ſtream is produced blowing from the point, and that equally whether the electrization be poſitive or negative. And as action and reaction are equal and contrary, the point repelling the air muſt itſelf alſo be equally repelled in the contrary direction; whence the horizontal wire above deſcribed is turned, and that always one way, namely, contrary to that in which the air is moved, or to the direction of its bent points.

C H A P. III.

OF THE COURSE OF THE ELECTRIC MATTER THROUGH THE COMMON AIR, AND THROUGH AIR VERY MUCH RAREFIED, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF AN INSTRUMENT FOR DISTINGUISHING THE TWO STATES OF ELECTRICITY.

THE air, being a non-conductor, muſt be claſſed among electric bodies, and the prime conductor of an electrical machine being ſurrounded with air retains its electric ſtate much better than it would do without that circumſtance. For the electric matter cannot paſs to or from the conductor with the ſame facility as if this impermeable ſubſtance were not interpoſed. H

I When air is ſpoken of as impermeable and electric, it muſt not be underſtood as being perfectly ſo, but as being moſtly compoſed of non-conducting parts. There is always moiſture enough in the air to reſtore the natural ſtate to electrified bodies in a few hours. It is likewiſe permeable, as all other electrics are, by the force of the electric matter which divides it or ſeparates its parts: when this happens to a ſolid electric, a hole is made through it.

K Long ſparks are always crooked in various directions, like lightning; which ſeems to be cauſed by the electric matter paſſing through thoſe parts of the air in which the beſt conductors are found. Indeed there is reaſon to think that electricity always requires a conductor to enable it to paſs from one body to another. For if a glaſs ſyphon, whoſe legs are equal, and reſpectively more than thirty inches long, be filled with boiling mercury, and the ends inverted into baſons likewiſe containing mercury, a double barometer (31, a) will be formed, whoſe upper or arched part will be abſolutely void of air. Then if one of the baſons be inſulated and electrified, the electricity will not paſs from the mercury in one leg, through the void, to that in the other; but upon admitting a ſmall bubble of air, it is immediately ſeen paſſing through the vacant ſpace in the form of bright flaſhes or flames. In the vacuum of the air-pump the electric matter will paſs and appear luminous between conductors, how diſtant ſoever, forming a beautiful appearance, that very much reſembles the northern lights or aurora-borealis. But it is found that in high degrees of exhauſtion the light is leſs the leſs air is left in the receiver. It ſeems, on conſideration of theſe circumſtances, that the electric matter cannot paſs through the more perfect vacuum, for want of a conductor, but that the conducting part of the air when introduced, anſwers the purpoſe, while the reſiſtance of the electric part, being very ſmall, on account of the rarefaction, ſuffers it to paſs from one conductor to another, through much greater ſpaces than it can paſs through in the open air.

This opinion is ſomewhat more confirmed by L
the obſervation that the electric matter forces conducting bodies into its path. If a drop of water be laid on the prime conductor, in a poſitive ſtate, very long ſparks may be drawn from it, the drop will aſſume a pointed or conical ſhape, and wet bodies which are held near it; a proof that the water is thrown off. If the ſame experiment be made with melted ſealing-wax, the appearance is very peculiar and amuſing. The ſealing-wax muſt be dropped on or ſtuck to the ſide of the prime conductor, and afterwards melted with a candle; then if the conductor be electrified, either poſitively or negatively, the drop of wax becomes pointed, and ſhoots a number of fine threads into the air, to the diſtance of ſeveral feet. This thread is in the ſame ſtate of electricity as the conductor it iſſues from.

It is remarkable that the drop of water which M
forms itſelf into a point by electrization does not give the ſpark when negatively electrified. This property is not, however, peculiar to water, but common to all very ſhort pointed conductors that riſe out of another ſurface nearly plane, and of ſome extent. A ſharp metallic point riſing about one thirtieth of an inch out of the ſurface of a ball of three inches diameter, gave ſparks five or ſix inches in length, when poſitive or emitting the electric matter; but the electricity paſſed without

out ſparks, and with ſcarcely any noiſe, when the point was negative or receiving. This may be an uſeful criterion for diſtinguiſhing the two ſtates.

N Fig. 164, repreſents an inſtrument for diſtinguiſhing the electricities. A and B are two metallic balls, that may be placed at a greater or leſs diſtance from each other by means of the joint at C. The two branches or legs CA, CB, are varniſhed glaſs. From one of the balls A, proceeds a ſhort point towards the other ball B. If the two balls be placed in the current or courſe of the electric matter, ſo that it may paſs through the air from the one to the other, its direction will be known. For if the electric matter paſs from A to B, there will be a certain diſtance of the balls dependant on the ſtrength of the electricity, within which denſe ſparks will paſs from the point: but if its courſe be in the contrary direction, no ſpark will be ſeen, unleſs the balls be almoſt in contact, and the point will be tipped with electric light.

CHAP. IV.

OF THE ELECTRICITY PRODUCED BY BRINGING A CONDUCTOR NEAR THE ELECTRIFIED PRIME CONDUCTOR; AND OF CHARGING AND DISCHARGING ELECTRIC PLATES.

IF an inſulated conductor, free from points, be brought within a certain diſtance of the prime conductor or cylinder in an electric ſtate, it will alſo exhibit ſigns of electricity of the ſame kind; but if thoſe ſigns be removed, by taking the ſpark, and the conductor taken from the prime conductor, it will exhibit ſigns of the contrary electricity. This is a very remarkable appearance, but may be accounted for, if two ſuppoſitions be admitted, viz. firſt, that the electric matter is attracted by conducting bodies; and ſecondly, that the parts of the electric matter mutually repel each other, the forces of each power being in a certain inverted ratio of the diſtance.

For the electric matter, in an inſulated and uniform conductor, will then be equally diffuſed through its whole maſs, and the attraction which that conductor will exert on any maſs of electric matter preſented from without, muſt be the exceſs of the attractive force of the body over the repulſive force of the electricity it contains. Whence a given conductor will attract the electric matter

the

the moſt powerfully when the quantity it already poſſeſſes is the leaſt poſſible, and its attractive force will decreaſe as it becomes more ſaturated with electricity. Let two equal conductors, compoſed of like matter, be brought within a ſmall diſtance of each other, then, if the quantities of electricity they contain are equal, the attractions they mutually exert on thoſe quantities will be equal, and it will remain undiſturbed in each body. But if one conductor, A, contain more electricity than the other, B, the attractive power of B will be greateſt, and will draw the electric Q matter from A till an equilibrium is obtained. It follows alſo, that in a number of conducting bodies, communicating with each other, the electric matter will be every where of the ſame denſity, if the greateſt attractive force of the bodies be ſuppoſed equal; but if different bodies be ſuppoſed to attract the electric matter with different forces, as is moſt probable, the denſities muſt vary with the forces. This may be called the natural ſtate.

R To apply this to the particular inſtance above recited, ſuppoſe the end of an inſulated conductor to be brought near the prime conductor in a poſitive ſtate, the attractive power of the firſt-mentioned conductor is greater than that of the prime conductor, yet, not being ſufficient to draw ſparks, at the given diſtance, the only effect it can produce is, to make the electric matter accumulate, and become more denſe in that part of the prime conductor near which it is preſented; by which accumulation the reſt of the prime conductor becomes leſs electrified, as experience teſtifies. This accumulated body of electricity repels, and conſequently rarefies the electric matter naturally contained in that end of the conductor, which is preſented to the prime conductor; the reſt of the fluid becomes more denſe, and the other parts of the conductor which is preſented, exhibit ſigns of electricity; yet, as this conductor in the whole contains no more than its natural quantity, if the electric ſtate be taken off, by drawing the ſpark, and it be afterwards removed from the vicinity of the prime conductor, it becomes negative throughout, by reaſon of the loſs of the ſpark. If a conductor be preſented to the prime conductor in a negative ſtate, the effects are reverſed, the attraction being ſtrongeſt at the prime conductor, and the accumulation being in the conductor which is preſented, it exhibits a negative ſtate, which being deſtroyed, upon removal it becomes poſitive, by reaſon of the ſpark which was given to it when apparently negative.

Theſe effects are more conſiderable the leſs the diſtance is between the two conductors; and the intercedent electric body is peculiarly affected: the manner of which may be better underſtood, by obſerving the phenomena of non-electrics, ſeparated by electrics which are leſs liable to allow the paſſing of the ſpark than the air is.

Upon an inſulated horizontal plate of metal, lay a plate of glaſs, conſiderably larger, ſo that there may be a rim of three or four inches projecting beyond the metal on every ſide. Upon the glaſs lay another plate of metal, of the ſame ſize as the former, ſo as preciſely to cover it. Electrify the upper plate, and the lower will exhibit ſigns of electricity. Continue the electrization, and the lower plate will emit ſparks to an uninſulated body for a time, and afterwards ceaſe. Separate the plates from the glaſs without uninſulating them, and the glaſs will appear to be poſſeſſed of the contrary electricities on the oppoſite ſides. That ſide which communicated with the prime conductor, during the electrization, will have a like electricity, and the other the contrary. Take off the electricity of the plates of metal, and carefully replace the glaſs on the lower, without deſtroying the inſulation, and alſo replace the upper plate with the ſame precaution. Then, with one end of an inſulated wire, not pointed, but knobbed at the ends, touch one of the plates, and bring the other end near the other plate: the conſequence will be, that a ſtrong and loud ſpark will paſs between it and the wire, the electricity of the glaſs will be diſcharged, and the plates and the wire will exhibit few or no ſigns of electricity.

An electric body, whoſe ſurfaces are thus poſſeſſed of the contrary electricities, is ſaid to be charged. The inſulation of the lower metallic plate and of the diſcharging wire is not neceſſary, except for the purpoſe of drawing inferences, reſpecting the manner of charging the electric plate. If the electricity of the prime conductor be ſtrong, and the glaſs thick, the diſcharge will often be made by a ſpark from the one metallic plate to the other, over the ſurface of the glaſs which projects on every ſide; but if the glaſs plate be thin, in which caſe, at an equal intenſity, it admits of a much greater charge, the diſcharge will be made through its ſubſtance. Glaſs, as thick as one eighth of an inch, may be penetrated by this means, one or more holes being made where the electric matter has paſſed, in which holes the glaſs is pulverized, and may be picked out with a pin.

The greater the ſurface of the glaſs, the greater charge it will contain, the ſame intenſity being ſuppoſed. But a given machine will not ſuperinduce ſo ſtrong an electric ſtate on a large plate as a ſmall one: the reaſon of which ſeems to depend on the different intervals of time required in the charging, conjoined with the different magnitudes of the ſurfaces at which the electricity is communicated to the air. If there were no eſcape of the electric matter during the time of charging, the times would probably be as the ſurfaces of the plates, equal thickneſſes being always ſuppoſed; and if two plates were equally charged, the eſcape would perhaps be likewiſe as the ſurfaces. Theſe being premiſed, the whole eſcape would be as the time of charging, and the ſurfaces of each conjointly, that is, becauſe the times are as the ſurfaces, in the duplicate ratio of their ſurfaces directly.

rectly. Hence it appears that the eſcape in plates, that increaſe in ſize, approaches rapidly and continually nearer to the quantity of electricity ſupplied by the machine, and that the more powerful machine, by diminiſhing the time of charging, will charge higher in the inverſe proportion of the time. It muſt be confeſſed that the ſuppoſitions not being accurate, the proportions are only nearly true, yet this way of conſidering the ſubject may ſerve to indicate the cauſes, though not ſtrictly to meaſure the effect.

y From the experiment (324), of ſeparating the glaſs from the plates of metal, it is ſhewn, that the ſurplus of the electricity on one ſurface, is either accurately or very nearly equal to the deficiency on the other; for if it were otherwiſe, the plates and the diſcharging wire would become ſtrongly poſſeſſed of the predominating electricity.
z It alſo follows, that if the theory of poſitive and negative electricity be true, electric bodies muſt contain the electric matter, for the electric ſtates are evidently on the ſurfaces of the glaſs, independent of the metal. Now, though it may eaſily be underſtood that a poſitive ſtate may be ſuperinduced by an accumulation of electricity on one ſurface, yet it is abſurd to ſuppoſe that the electric matter can be emitted and exhauſted from the other ſide, if it did not exiſt there, previous to
A ſuch emiſſion and exhauſtion. From this circumſtance it may be concluded, according to the ſame theory, that all bodies, as well electrics as non-

electrics, attract the electric matter, but that electrics, being ſo conſtructed as not to admit it into their ſubſtance, as non-electrics do, muſt condenſe it upon their ſurfaces, and at all times hold a great quantity ſo condenſed. And if the quantity of electricity be increaſed or diminiſhed on one ſide, the electricity on the other ſurface muſt be rarefied or condenſed, in conſequence of the diminution or increaſe of the whole attractive force of the body. The effects will alſo be more conſiderable the leſs the diſtance is between the two ſurfaces (321, o).

A It is not poſſible to charge an electric plate by inducing an electric ſtate on one of its ſurfaces, unleſs the other be at the ſame time ſufficiently near to an uninſulated non-electric to aſſume the contrary ſtate by emitting or receiving the electric matter.

B If a plate of glaſs be laid upon an uninſulated plate of metal, the upper ſurface may be rendered electric by friction, or by applying an electrified body ſucceſſively to its parts. This electricity may be taken off by touching the upper ſurface with an uninſulated metallic plate of the ſame dimenſions as that upon which the glaſs is placed, but will not be entirely taken off, becauſe the communication between the two ſurfaces in this method is not perfect, and becauſe the metal cannot, by ordinary means, be brought into actual contact with the glaſs. The ſmall quantity which remains, produces an effect which has been miſtaken for a perpetual electricity. For if a plate C of metal, to which a glaſs handle is affixed, be laid upon the glaſs, this ſmall quantity of electricity will influence the metal, and, without actually communicating the electric matter, will cauſe it to exhibit a ſimilar ſtate (322). If this be taken off, by drawing the ſpark, and the metal then removed, by means of the glaſs handle, it will be found poſſeſſed of the contrary ſtate of electricity, and another ſpark may be obtained. The metallic plate may be then again applied to the ſurface of the glaſs, and the proceſs again repeated, and ſo on for a prodigious number of times, without any ſenſible difference in the event. For the electricity at the ſurface of the glaſs being almoſt in the natural ſtate, as to condenſation, does not diſappear for a very long time, and the very near approach of the metal enables it to produce the ſame effect as would be obtained at a greater diſtance from a ſtronger electricity (321, o). This is made obvious, by bringing the metallic plate near the ſurface of the glaſs before its firſt ſtrong electricity is taken off; for the ſame event is then perceived at the diſtance of four, five or ſix inches, as in the former caſe is produced by contact.

p The vapors of the atmoſphere are continually attaching themſelves to the ſurface of cold glaſs, and by that means deſtroy the electricity. Sulphur, wax, or reſin, being leſs ſubject to this, retain their electric ſtate much longer. A plate of glaſs or wood, coated over with any ſubſtance of this nature, may be excited by friction, and will produce electricity in a metallic plate, in the manner above deſcribed for a very great length of time. Such a plate, together with its metal, has been named the electrophorus, fig. 165.

E If the diſcharge of an electrified plate be made by the parts of a living animal, a conſiderable pain will be felt chiefly at the extremities of the muſcles. For example, if the lower metallic plate be touched with one hand, and the other brought to the upper plate, at the inſtant of the emiſſion, a pain will be felt at the wriſts and elbows, which as inſtantly vaniſhes. If a larger glaſs plate be uſed, the pain will be felt in the breaſt; if yet larger, the ſenſation will be that of a univerſal blow. This ſenſation has obtained the name of the ſhock, and will deprive animals of life, if ſufficiently ſtrong. The ſhock from 30 ſquare inches of glaſs, well charged, will inſtantly kill mice, ſparrows, or other ſmall animals. Six ſquare feet of glaſs will deprive a man of ſenſation for a time, if the head be made a part of the circuit through which the electricity moves. No inconvenience has been found from the electric ſhock by men of ſtrong habits, but women of delicate conſtitutions have had convulſions from a violent ſhock.

F It may be obſerved, that the electric ſhock is a proof that the electric matter can paſs through the ſubſtance of non-electrics, and is not univerſally conducted along their ſurfaces alone, as ſome have ſuppoſed.

CHAP. V.

OF ELECTRIC JARS; THE VELOCITY OF THE SHOCK; LIGHT IN THE BOYLEAN VACUUM; THE CHARGING A PLATE OF AIR; WHENCE IS DEDUCED THE ACTION OF POINTED BODIES.

G FOR the ſake of ſimplicity and preciſion, the effects of electricity, in charging glaſs, have been deſcribed as they happen in flat pieces or plates. Theſe, however, are ſeldom uſed. The object of the philoſopher, in general, is to collect a large quantity of electricity, by means of the ſurfaces of electrics, and it is neither neceſſary nor convenient to uſe flat plates. He therefore accommodates himſelf with a ſufficient number of

H prepared jars. Theſe are made of various ſhapes and magnitudes, but the moſt uſeful are thin cylindrical glaſs veſſels, about four inches in diameter, and fourteen in height; coated within and without, with tin-foil, which is ſtuck on with gum-water, paſte, or wax, excepting two inches of the rim or edge, which is left bare, to prevent the communication between the coatings. About four inches from the bottom, within, is a large cork, that receives a thick wire, ending in ſeveral ramifications, which touch the inſide coating; the upper end of the wire terminating with a knob conſiderably above the mouth of the jar. Fig. 66.

When it is required to be charged, it may be
held in the hand, or placed on an uninſulated table,
and the knob of the wire applied to the conduc-
tor; the inſide coated ſurface becomes poſſeſſed of
the electricity of the conductor, and the external
ſurface acquires the contrary electricity, by means
of its uninſulated coating. When a jar of this
kind is highly charged, it will diſcharge ſponta-
neouſly over the uncoated ſurface, and ſeldom
through the glaſs, whereas, when the uncoated
ſurface is large, they are more apt to break by
that means, and become uſeleſs. Yet, there is I
no certainty that a jar, which has diſcharged it-
ſelf over its ſurface, will not at another time break
by a diſcharge through the glaſs, as the contrary
often happens.

K A jar of conſiderable thickneſs, with a neck like a bottle, in which is cemented a thick tube to receive the wire, will ſuſtain a very high charge, and produce much greater effects than one of the laſt deſcription. The charging wire being inſerted looſely into the tube, will fall out on inverting the jar, and the charge will remain for ſeveral weeks without much loſs. A jar thus charged, may be put into the pocket, and applied to many purpoſes that the common jar cannot be uſed for.

L When a greater degree of electric force is required, larger jars muſt be uſed, in which the form is of no conſequence, except as far as relates to convenience. But it is leſs expenſive, and nearly as effectual, to uſe a number of ſmaller jars, having the ſame quantity of coated ſurface as the large jars. In this caſe, a communication muſt be formed between all the outſide coatings, which may be done by placing them on a ſtand of metal; and alſo between all the inner coatings, which is beſt done by means of wires. Such a collection is called a battery, and may be charged and diſcharged like a ſingle jar.

M In diſcharging electrical jars, the electricity goes in the greateſt quantity through the beſt conductors, and by the ſhorteſt courſe. Thus, if a chain and a wire, communicating with the outer coating, be preſented to the knob of a jar, the greater part of the charge will paſs by the wire and very little by the chain, which is a worſe conductor, by reaſon of its diſcontinuation at every link. When the diſcharge is made by the chain only, ſparks are ſeen at every link, which is a proof that they are not in contact; and as the chain muſt be ſtretched by a conſiderable force before N the ſparks ceaſe to appear on the diſcharge, it follows that there is a repulſive power in bodies, by which they are prevented from coming into contact, unleſs by force, as has been obſerved in the former part of this treatiſe (I. 14, A; I. 48, A, B.)

O By accurate experiments it appears, that the force of the electric ſhock is weakened, that is, its effects are diminiſhed, by uſing a conductor of great length in making the diſcharge. Yet, a very conſiderable ſhock was given by the Abbé Nolet, in the preſence of the French King, to one hundred and eighty men; the firſt of whom formed a communication with the outer coating, the reſt joining hands in a circular line, and the laſt touched the knob of the inner coating. They were all ſhocked at the ſame inſtant. Dr. Watſon, and many other gentlemen of eminence in the philoſophical world, were at the pains of making experiments of the ſame kind, but much more accurate. They found, by means of wire inſulated on baked wood, that the electric ſhock was tranſmitted inſtantaneouſly through the length of 12276 feet.

When any animal or ſubſtance is to be ſubjected to the ſhock, it is uſually done by means of two chains, one of which connects one extremity of the animal or ſubſtance with the outer coating, and the other being faſtened to, or laid on, the other extremity, is applied to the knob of the inner coating to make the diſcharge. The animal or ſubſtance thus forming a part of the circuit, receives the whole ſhock. The ſtrong ſhock of a battery will melt wire of the ſeventieth of an inch in diameter, and wires of leſs diameters are frequently blown away, and diſperſed. Gunpowder may be fired by a charge of three ſquare feet: the method is, to put it into a quill, and thruſt a wire into each end, ſo as not to meet, and then make theſe wires a part of the circuit. A leſs

charge will ſerve if iron filings be mixed with the
T gunpowder. Spirit of wine, ether, or a mixture of common and inflammable air, may alſo be fired by the ſame means, or even by the ſpark from the conductor. Yet, it ſeems probable in theſe caſes, that inflammation does not take place becauſe the electric matter is fire, or in an ignited ſtate, but becauſe its extreme velocity excites that inteſtine motion which raiſes the temperature of bodies (121, C, D, E).

U If the ball of a thermometer be placed in a ſtrong current of electricity, the mercury or ſpirit will riſe many degrees *.

V A ſtrong ſhock gives polarity to ſmall needles.

W Electricity will paſs by means of non-electrics that are ſo ſmall as to be deſtroyed by its paſſage, as has juſt been inſtanced in wires: the force of the exploſion in theſe inſtances is very conſiderable, and is termed the lateral force of electricity. The following is a proof of this, and may be exhibited with leſs than a ſquare foot of coated glaſs, if
X well charged. At the glaſs-houſe there is uſually a great number of ſolid ſticks of glaſs, about a quarter of an inch diameter; if theſe be examined narrowly, ſeveral of them will be found to be tubular for a conſiderable length, but the diameter of the cavity ſeldom exceeds the 200th part of an inch. Select theſe, and break off the tubular

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* From 67 to 99 degrees, in a ſmall mercurial thermometer. See Nairne's Deſcription of his Electrical Machine. London, 1783.

part, which may be filled with quickſilver by ſucking; care being taken that no wet previouſly inſinuates itſelf, and then ſend the ſhock through this ſmall thread of quickſilver, which will inſtantly be diſploded, and will break or ſplit the tube in a curious manner.

If a piece of the common glaſs tube be drawn Y out very ſmall, by means of the blow-pipe, and then filled with mercury, the ſhock will cauſe both the mercury and the tube to diſappear in the exploſion; nothing being ſeen but ſmoke or vapour.

An experiment ſimilar to theſe may be made Z with a glaſs-tube filled with water. Take a ſmall glaſs-tube, whoſe cavity is about a quarter of an inch in diameter, fill it with water, and ſtop the end with ſoft pomatum: through the pomatum inſert two wires, that they may almoſt touch each other, and make their ends a part of the circuit in the diſcharge of a ſtrong ſhock, from about two feet ſquare of coated glaſs; the conſequence will be, that the water will be diſperſed in every direction, and the tube blown to pieces, particularly in the middle, near the diſcontinuation of the wire: the ends with the wires and pomatum will ſometimes be found undiſturbed. This is a ſtriking inſtance of the velocity and force with which the electric matter is moved (1. 40).

This property, of being charged and diſcharged, A is not peculiar to glaſs, but is common to all other electrics.

If

B If a thin bottle be exhauſted of air by means of the air-pump, it will receive a conſiderable charge by applying its bottom to the electrified prime conductor, during which time the electric matter will paſs through the vacuum between the hand and the inner ſurface of that part of the glaſs E which is neareſt the prime conductor. This appearance, whoſe cauſe has already been in ſome degree explained (318), is exceedingly beautiful in the dark, eſpecially if the bottle be of a conſiderable length. It exactly reſembles thoſe lights which appear in the northern ſky, and are called ſtreamers, or the aurora borealis. If one hand be applied to the part of the bottle which was applied to the conductor, while the other remains at the neck, the ſhock will be felt, at which inſtant the natural ſtate of the inner ſurface is reſtored by a flaſh, which is ſeen pervading the vacuum between the two hands.

C The electric ſhock may be given from a plate of air, by means of two large plates of metal, or rather boards covered with tinfoil; one of which is to be ſuſpended to the prime conductor, and the other placed parallel to it on an uninſulated ſtand, at a convenient diſtance. Theſe boards may be regarded as the coatings of the plate of air contained between them, and if a communication be formed between them, by touching the uninſulated board with one hand, and applying the other hand to the conductor, the ſhock will be felt accordingly. It is almoſt unneceſſary to obſerve, that if the electricity be powerful, or the diſtance between the plates ſmall, the charge will paſs from the one to the other in a ſpark through the air.

If we compare this experiment with what has D
already been obſerved reſpecting the charging and diſcharging electric bodies, it will appear that moſt of the electric phenomena are the conſequences of the air being charged. Thus, the prime conductor imparts its electricity to the ſurface of air immediately contiguous, and when the ſpark is drawn the diſcharge is made to the non-electrics, namely, the floor and wainſcot of the room, which are in contact with the oppoſite ſurface. The charge of electrics has already been obſerved to be greater, (323, T) the nearer the ſurfaces are to each other; thus, glaſs beyond half an inch thickneſs
can ſcarcely be charged by our machines: in like E
manner, the diſcharge, that is to ſay, the ſpark from the conductor, will be greater, when a large company ſtand about it than at other times, the body of air which is interpoſed between the conductor and the neareſt uninſulated non-electrics being then leſs in thickneſs than at other times.
It follows alſo, that a large conductor will give F
a larger ſpark than a leſs, the diſcharge being from a ſurface proportionally greater. And ſince this diſcharge conſiſts chiefly of the electric matter, reſiding at, or near the ſurface of contact, and little, if at all, of that which may be within the
ſubſtance of the conductor, it is of no conſequence G

whether the conductor be a ſolid non-electric or hollow, provided the ſurface be unaltered in form and magnitude. Hollow cylinders of copper, or tin, or wood, or paſteboard, covered with tinfoil, or ſtrongly gilt, are the conductors generally in uſe.

H It is a conſequence of the air being charged that broad non-electric ſurfaces draw large ſparks from the conductor; for the ſparks are the diſcharges of a large plate of interpoſed air. A leſs ſurface will draw a leſs ſpark, but becauſe the ſame machine charges leſs ſurfaces higher than greater, the ſpontaneous diſcharge through the body of the electric air will be made at a greater diſtance of the ſurfaces, that is to ſay, the ſparks will be longer. If the ſurface of the non-electric preſented be yet leſs, the ſparks, for the ſame reaſon, will be leſs, and emitted to a ſtill greater diſtance. And if the ſurface be indefinitely ſmall, or, in other words, if the non-electric be pointed, the ſpark may be ſo ſmall as to be inviſible, and the diſtance to I which it can be emitted may be unlimited. The effect of pointed bodies ſeems to depend on circumſtances of this nature; but the reaſon of the different appearances of the light on points electrified, poſitively or negatively, ſtill remains a difficulty.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

AN ACCOUNT OF SEVERAL INSTRUMENTS, AND OF THE PRODUCING AN ELECTRIC STATE WITHOUT EVIDENT FRICTION.

K THE condenſer is and inſtrument of the ſame kind as the electrophorus, but differently uſed. For inſtead of the interpoſed electric being previouſly charged, it is of great importance here, that it ſhould be perfectly in the natural ſtate. In this ſituation if the upper conducting plate be connected with a larger body weakly electrified, while the lower plate is uninſulated, the upper will receive the electric ſtate, and on being ſeparated or lifted up, will exhibit it with a much higher degree of intenſity. So that very ſmall degrees of electricity may be rendered ſenſible by this admirable contrivance.

L To explain the cauſe of this, it muſt be recollected that the action of a neighbouring conductor (322, R) diminiſhes the intenſity of the electric ſtate in another conductor, more eſpecially if the former be uninſulated. The electrified inſulated conductor will therefore admit of a more conſiderable degree of electrization before its intenſity can be rendered equal to what it was when ſolitary. Suppoſe this done, and the additional conductor then removed, and it is evident that the electrified conductor will, by the uniform diffuſion of the electricity, be left in a higher ſtate of electrization than it would have acquired by the ſame means without the aſſiſtance of the uninſulated conductor. M The two plates of the condenſer are in theſe circumſtances: the upper receives more electricity, becauſe of the vicinity of the lower, and ſhews a greater intenſity when removed out of that vicinity.

N To accompliſh this purpoſe, in the moſt effectual manner, it is neceſſary that the interpoſed electric be very thin (323, T) and that the ſurfaces be well adapted to each other. The electric may be a coat of varniſh laid on the lower or upper plate, or a thin ſilk faſtened to the ſurface of the upper.

O If the electricity be ſtrong enough to charge the electric, the acquiſition of the electric ſtate by the metal will be counteracted on the electrophorus principle, and the charge will tend greatly to diſturb and falſify the reſults of experiments made while it remains. A ſlight warming of the varniſh, either by the ſun or any other gentle heat, will however diſſipate it. But the beſt remedy for this, is to uſe ſuch an apparatus as will neither retain a charge nor ſuffer the metallic plate to obtain a higher electric ſtate than it can carry off on its ſeparation.

P The ſagacious inventor has therefore ſubſtituted inſtead of the lower or fixed part of the apparatus, a piece a piece of dry marble, or marble varniſhed with copal varniſh and kept in an oven for a ſhort time, or very dry wood. Here the very thin ſtratum of air between the metal plate and the ſubſtance it reſts on, ſeems to ſupply the place of the electric, and the imperfectly conducting power of the marble or the wood, prevents any charge from being accumulated. This laſt apparatus alſo performs its office better than the other.

To uſe this inſtrument the metallic plate is to be laid on the marble or varniſhed metal, and a connection formed between the upper plate and the body whoſe electricity is to be examined. This connection may remain eight or ten minutes, or longer, if the electricity be very weak, and then be removed. The metal plate being lifted up, will exhibit ſigns of electricity if the connected body were in an electric ſtate *. Q

Various inſtruments have been contrived to diſcover the preſence of electricity, together with its intenſity and kind. Theſe have been adapted to obſerve either the attraction, or repulſion, or the length and figure of the ſpark. R

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* The electrophorus and condenſer were invented by Mr. Alexander Volta, Profeſſor of Experimental Philoſophy at Como, &c. This laſt inſtrument is honourable to its inventor, not only on account of the extenſively uſeful purpoſes to which it has been and may be applied; but likewiſe becauſe it was diſcovered, not caſually, like moſt other electrical apparatus, but in conſequence of ſcientific deduction and reaſoning. See Phil. Tranſ. Vol. 72, Part 1. or Cavallo's Electricity.

S Small degrees of electricity are very well ſhewn by the divergence of two fine hempen-threads, T ſuſpended together from the conductor. If little balls of pith or cork be faſtened to the ends of the threads, they will ſerve to denote ſtill greater intenſities, as they will not ſo ſoon arrive at their U utmoſt divergence by the mutual repulſion. Fig. 167, is a very uſeful electrometer upon this principle. It conſiſts of an upright ſtick of box-wood, A B, on one ſide of which is affixed a graduated ſemi-circle; D is a ball of pith or cork, and is ſtuck upon the end of a ſmall rod or radius of wood, which, by means of a ſmall axis at C, is moveable in a plane parallel to that of the ſemicircle. This electrometer is fixed upright on the prime conductor; the radius will therefore hang perpendicularly down when it is not electrified; and according to the intenſity of the electric ſtate given to the conductor, the repulſion muſt cauſe the ball to aſcend. The aſcent will be marked by the graduations.

V This electrometer, though very uſeful, has the imperfection of being leſs ſenſible of the changes of electricity when the intenſity is conſiderable, than when the repulſion at the beginning of the ſcale acts at right angles to the radius. It has alſo another inconvenience common to all electrometers, namely, the want of a ſtandard of original adjuſtment, by means of which all inſtruments of the kind may indicate the ſame intenſity in ſimilar circumſtances.

Fig. 168 repreſents an electrometer for meaſuring the length of the ſpark. A repreſents a ſection of the prime conductor; the wooden ſtem B being inſerted therein. The bent part D is varniſhed glaſs. Through a wooden collar c paſſes a wire that carries a ball of metal E, which may be ſet at different diſtances as required. A chain may be hung on the outer part F. This electrometer is chiefly uſeful for ſhocks, greater or leſs as may be required. For this purpoſe the knob of the jar muſt be in contact with the prime conductor, and a chain from F muſt touch the external coating. When the charge is ſufficiently high, the exploſion will be made through the interval between A and E. w

Fig. 169, is a very ſenſible electrometer, well adapted for the obſervation of the preſence and quality of either natural or artificial electricity. ABC is the braſs caſe containing the inſtrument. When the part AB is unſcrewed and the electrometer taken out, it appears as repreſented in ABDC. A glaſs tube CDNM is cemented into the piece AB. The upper part of the tube is ſhaped tapering to a ſmall extremity, which is entirely covered with ſealing-wax. Into this tapering part a ſmall tube of glaſs is cemented; the lower extremity being alſo covered with ſealing-wax, projects a ſmall way within the tube CDMN. Into this ſmaller tube a wire is cemented, which, with its under extremity, touches a flat piece of ivory H, faſtened to the tube by means of a cork. The upper extremity of the x wire projects about a quarter of an inch above the tube, and ſcrews into the braſs cap E F, which cap is open at the bottom, and ſerves to defend the waxed part of the inſtrument from the rain, &c. From H are hung two fine ſilver wires, having very ſmall corks at their lower ends, which by their repulſion ſhews the electricity. I M and I N are two ſlips of tin-foil ſtuck to the inſide of the glaſs, and communicating with the braſs bottom A B. They ſerve to convey that electricity, which, when the corks touch the glaſs, is communicated to it and might diſturb their free motion.

Y To uſe this inſtrument for artificial electricity, bring a body in an electric ſtate (a ſtick of ſealing-wax, previouſly rubbed, is as convenient as any) near the braſs cap; the corks (321, Q) will diverge with the ſame electricity till one of them touches the tinfoil I M or I N, when they will immediately collapſe. Remove the electrified body, and the corks will again diverge with the contrary electricity. In this ſituation, ſuppoſing ſealing-wax to have been uſed, a body poſſeſſed of the poſitive electricity being brought near the cap will cauſe the corks to diverge ſtill more; but if negative, it will cauſe them to approach nearer to each other.

Z When this electrometer is to be uſed to try the electricity of the fogs, air, clouds, &c. the obſerver is to do nothing more than to unſcrew it from its caſe and hold it by the bottom A B, to preſent it to the air in an open place a little above his head, ſo that he may conveniently ſee the corks P. A very ſmall degree of electricity will cauſe them to diverge, and its quality may be aſcertained by bringing an excited ſtick of ſealing-wax, or other electric, towards the cap EF.

A The ingenious electrician who is not provided with the inſtruments here deſcribed, may ſupply their place by contrivances which a knowledge of the general facts will eaſily indicate. Strong electricities may be diſtinguiſhed by the light at the extremities of pointed bodies, and for leſs intenſities a downy feather may be ſuſpended by a fine thread of ſilk. This being electrified, by bringing it in contact with the cylinder or conductor of a machine, will preſerve its electric ſtate for a conſiderable time; during which it will be repelled by bodies in the ſame ſtate, and attracted by all others.

B We ſhall finiſh this general account of artificial electricity with pointing out ſome of the other means of producing it, which do not ſeem referable to the uſual method of excitation.

C The eſcape of vapor or elaſtic fluid from bodies in a ſtate of combuſtion, from water thrown on hot coals, or from chemical menſtrua in a ſtate of efferveſcence, leaves the reſidue negatively electrified. Theſe important facts ſeem to point at a general law of electricity, that may tend in future to explain the phenomena in which heat is latent (117, T), and to which it bears a ſtriking analogy *.

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* The diſcovery of Sig. Volta. See Phil. Tranſ. vol. 72.

D It appears to be a fair deduction from theſe facts, that as bodies take up electricity when they aſſume an elaſtic form, ſo they muſt depoſit it when they are again condenſed. The experiments, however, to aſcertain this have not yet been made.

E Sulphur melted in an earthen veſſel, and placed to cool upon uninſulated conductors, is ſtrongly electric when taken out, but is not ſo when it has ſtood to cool upon electric ſubſtances.

F Sulphur melted in a glaſs veſſel acquires a ſtrong electricity in the circumſtances above mentioned, whether the veſſel be placed on electrics or not; but ſtronger in the former caſe. This electricity is yet ſtronger, if the glaſs be coated with metal. In theſe caſes the glaſs is always poſitive, and the ſulphur negative. It is particularly remarkable, that the ſulphur acquires no electricity till it begins to cool and contract, and is the ſtrongeſt at the time of the greateſt contraction: whereas the electricity of the glaſs is at that time weakeſt, and is the ſtrongeſt of all when the ſulphur is ſhaken out before it begins to contract, or has acquired any negative electricity *.

G It has been obſerved, that ſilk or worſted ſtockings become electrical after being worn ſome hours, more particularly the ſilk, as does alſo a beaver ſhirt worn between two others. If a white and a black ſilk ſtocking be worn on the ſame leg, they obtain contrary electricities. When drawn off together, they ſhew very little ſigns of electricity,

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* Theſe facts are denied by Volta, in Phil. Tranſ. vol. 72.

tricity, but, upon ſeparating them, each indicates an electrical ſtate ſo ſtrongly, that the repulſion inflates them, ſo as to exhibit the intire ſhape of the leg. If the two ſtockings be allowed to come together, they ſtrongly attract each other, the inflation ſubſides, and they ſtick very cloſely together; in which ſituation they retain their electric ſtate, notwithſtanding the approach of the ſharpeſt metallic point. A ſecond ſeparation again exhibits their reſpective electricities as before; and this may be done ſeveral times without much diminiſhing their electricities. The electricity of the black ſtocking is negative, and of the white poſitive.

The tourmalin is a hard gem, either pellucid or opake, of a red colour, and is brought from the iſland of Ceylon, by the Dutch. It poſſeſſes the property of aſſuming an electric ſtate if heated; one ſide of it becoming poſitive, and the other negative. If this electric ſtate be taken off by contact, the ſtone will become electric as it cools; but with this difference, that the ſide, which, during the heating was poſitive, will now be negative, and the other ſide poſitive, which before was negative. But if the electric ſtate be not taken off, the ſame kind of electricity will be found on the ſame ſide during the whole time of heating and cooling. Either ſide of the tourmalin will become poſitive by friction, and both may be made ſo at the ſame time.

Theſe are the chief properties of this very remarkable ſtone, which are alſo common to the Brazil topaz, and ſome other gems. There are ſeveral important particulars relative to this and every other branch of electrical knowledge, which cannot be enumerated and deſcribed, in an introductory book, on account of the great length of detail they would require. For theſe, the ſtudent muſt have recourſe to treatiſes written expreſsly on this ſubject. There are alſo a number of fanciful and pleaſing variations of the common experiments. Bells are rung by an inſulated clapper, which is alternately attracted and repelled between two bells in oppoſite ſtates of electricity; figures cut in paper are made to dance by the attraction and repulſion between two metallic plates; light mills of paſteboard are driven round by the current of air from electrified points, &c. &c. particular accounts of all which may be had in pamphlets, which are frequently ſold by the makers of the electrical apparatus *.

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* For a fuller account of electrical diſcoveries and apparatus, conſult Prieſtley's Hiſtory of Electricity; Adams's Eſſay on Electricity; or Cavallo's Complete Treatiſe.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

OF NATURAL ELECTRICITY; AND OF THE IDENTITY OF LIGHTNING AND THE ELECTRIC MATTER.

THAT electricity is no trivial or confined K ſubject, muſt appear from what has already been ſaid, ſince there is no body in nature that is not acted upon by it, either as a conductor or non-conductor. The importance of the electric matter in the ſyſtem of the world is more particularly confirmed by obſervations on thoſe phenomena which take place without the concurrent operation of man. Of theſe it will be proper to give ſome account.

Several fiſhes poſſeſs the property of giving L the electric ſhock. The torpedo, or numbing fiſh, and one or more ſpecies of eels, from Surinam, if touched by the hand, a metal rod, or any other conductor, give a conſiderable ſhock to the arm, but may be ſafely touched by means of a ſtick of ſealing-wax. The ſhock depends on the will of the fiſh, and is tranſmitted to a great diſtance, ſo that if perſons in a ſhip happen to dip their fingers or feet in the ſea, when the fiſh is ſwimming at the diſtance of fifteen feet, they are affected by it.

M Many diſorders of the human frame have been cured or relieved by electricity. In all caſes, except thoſe called nervous, the electric wind from a wooden or metallic point, the ſpark or gentle ſhocks may be ſafely adminiſtered without fear of doing harm, if no good effect ſhould be produced. This remedy ſeems peculiarly applicable to local diſorders, ſuch as ſwellings, contractions, rheumatic and other pains, palſies, &c. in which its effects are very often wonderfully ſudden and beneficial. The ſpark or ſmall ſhocks through the pelvis, regulated according to the feelings of the patient, are ſaid to be an infallible cure for the ſuppreſſion of the catamenia; and it is certain that in many deplorable caſes it has effected a cure. It is generally admitted as a rule in the application of electricity, that it ought never to be ſo ſtrong as to be diſagreeable to the patient in any conſiderable degree.

N But the moſt remarkable appearances of electricity, which are viewed with ſurpriſe and admiration by all ranks of people, are thoſe which may be termed atmoſpherical, as for the moſt part exiſting in, or depending on, the ſtate of the atmoſphere. Lightning is proved to be an electric phenomenon, and there is little doubt but the aurora-borealis, whirlwinds, water-ſpouts, and earthquakes, depend on the ſame principle.

O The reſemblance between the electric ſpark and lightning, is ſo obvious, that we find it among the earlieſt obſervations on the ſubject; but the proof of the important theorem of their indentity was reſerved for Dr. Franklin, who is ſo juſtly celebrated for his many diſcoveries in this branch of natural philoſophy. He firſt obſerved the power of uninſulated points, in drawing off the electricity from bodies at great diſtances, and thence inferred that a pointed metallic bar, if inſulated at a conſiderable height in the air, would become electrical by communication from the clouds during a thunder-ſtorm. He communicated this thought to the public; and ſeveral machines, conſiſting of inſulated iron bars, erected perpendicular to the horizon, and pointed at top, were ſet up in different parts of France and England. The firſt apparatus that was favored with a viſit from this ethereal matter, was that of Monſ. Dalibard, at Marly la Ville, about ſix leagues from Paris. It conſiſted of a bar of the length of forty feet, and was electrified on the tenth of May, 1752, for the ſpace of half an hour, during which time the longeſt ſparks it emitted meaſured about two inches.

Dr. Franklin, after having publiſhed the method of verifying his hypotheſis concerning the ſameneſs of electricity with the matter of lightning, was waiting for the erection of a ſpire in Philadelphia to carry his views into execution; not imagining that a pointed rod of a moderate height could anſwer the purpoſe; when it occurred to him, that by means of a common kite he could have a readier and better acceſs to the regions of thunder, than by any ſpire whatever. Preparing therefore a large ſilk handkerchief, and two croſs ſticks of a proper length, on which to extend it; he took the opportunity of the firſt approaching thunder-ſtorm, to walk into a field in which there was a ſhed convenient for his purpoſe. But, dreading the ridicule which too commonly attends unſucceſsful attempts in ſcience, he communicated his intended experiment to nobody but his ſon, who aſſiſted him in raiſing the kite.

The kite being raiſed, the end of the ſtring being tied to a ſilk ſtring, which he held in his hand, and a ſmall key being faſtened at the place of junction, a conſiderable time elapſed before there was any appearance of its being electrified. One very promiſing cloud had paſſed over it without any effect; when, at length, juſt as he was beginning to deſpair of his contrivance, he obſerved ſome looſe threads of the hempen ſtring to ſtand erect, and to avoid one another juſt as if they had been ſuſpended on a common conductor. Struck with this promiſing appearance, he immediately preſented his knuckle to the key, and, let the reader judge of the exquiſite pleaſure he felt at that moment, the diſcovery was complete. He perceived a very evident electric ſpark. Others ſucceeded, even before the ſtring was wet, ſo as to put the matter paſt all diſpute; and when the rain had wetted the ſtring, he collected the electricity very copiouſly. This happened in June 1752, a month after the electricians in France had verified the ſame theory, but before he had heard of any thing they had done.

The grand practical uſe which the Doctor made of this diſcovery, was to ſecure buildings from being damaged by lightning, a thing of vaſt conſequence in all parts of the world, but more eſpecially in ſeveral parts of North America, where thunder-ſtorms are more frequent, and their effects, in that dry air, more dreadful, than they are ever known to be with us.

This great end is accompliſhed by ſo eaſy a method, and by ſo cheap and ſeemingly trifling apparatus, as fixing a pointed metalline rod higher than any part of the building, and communicating with the ground, or rather the neareſt water. This wire the lightning is ſure to ſeize upon, preferably to any other part of the building, unleſs it be very large and extended, in which caſe wires may be erected at each extremity; by which means this dangerous power is ſafely conducted to the earth, and diſſipated without doing any harm to the building.

Conducting rods are now become very common, both for the purpoſe of ſecuring buildings, and of making obſervations on the ſtate of the atmoſphere. The beſt of thoſe which are intended for the latter purpoſe, is the following. On the top of any building, which will be the more convenient if it ſtand upon an eminence, erect a pole as tall as a man can manage without difficulty, having on the top of it a ſolid piece of glaſs or baked wood, 8 feet in length. Let this be covered with a tin or copper veſſel in the form of a funnel, to prevent its ever being wetted. Above this let there riſe a long ſlender rod, terminating in a pointed wire, and having a ſmall wire twiſted round its whole length, to conduct the electricity the better to the funnel. From the funnel let a wire deſcend along the building, about a foot diſtance from it, and be conducted through an open ſaſh into any room which ſhall be moſt convenient for managing the experiments. In this room let a proper conductor be inſulated and connected with the wire coming in at the window. This wire and conductor, being completely inſulated, will be electrified whenever there is a conſiderable quantity of electricity in the air; and notice will be given when it is properly charged, either by the mutual repulſion of two ſmall balls of cork hung to it by threads, or by the ringing of two ſmall bells, the one ſuſpended from, and communicating with the conductor, and the other uninſulated: theſe bells will be in oppoſite ſtates of electricity when the conductor is electrified, and if a clapper or ſmall metallic ball be hung by a ſilk thread between them, it will be alternately attracted and repelled by each, and conſequently indicate the electricity of the conductor by ringing. The condenſer (339, K) is of excellent uſe to aſcertain the preſence and quality of atmoſpherical electricity when the conductor is too ſlightly electrified to attract a thread, or to exhibit any of the uſual appearances.

To make theſe experiments in perfect ſafety, x the electrified wire ſhould be brought within a few inches of a conducting rod, which ſerves to guard the houſe, that the redundant electricity may paſs off that way, without ſtriking any perſon who may happen to ſtand near it. The conductor to guard the houſe ſhould conſiſt of a rod, without breaks or diſcontinuities; between one fourth and one half of an inch thick; if it be of iron; but ſmaller if it be braſs or copper, terminating upwards in a ſharp point about four or five feet above the higheſt part of the building: it is convenient that this point be of gold, or gilt, to preſerve it from ruſting. The lower end of the rod ſhould, if poſſible, be continued to ſome well or running water, or otherwiſe it ſhould be ſunk ſeveral feet into the ground, at the diſtance of ſome yards from the building. It is of no conſequence how many bendings are made in the rod, but it is much better to faſten it to the outſide than the inſide of the building; for theſe conductors are known to emit ſparks during thunder-ſtorms, notwithſtanding their inſertion in the earth, from which fatal conſequences may be apprehended when the electric force is very great.

It is clear, from many inſtances, that the lights y which are ſeen at the maſt-heads of ſhips, and on the vanes of ſome churches during thunder, owe their origin to the electric matter paſſing by means of uninſulated points.

z The polarity of the compaſs-needles has been known, in ſeveral inſtances, to have been deſtroyed or reverſed by lightning. An effect which, as has been obſerved, may be produced by the electric ſhock from glaſs (334, v).

A If the electrician be deſirous of making experiments upon the electricity of the atmoſphere to greater exactneſs, he muſt raiſe a kite, by means of a ſtring in which a ſmall wire is twiſted. The lower extremity of this line muſt be ſilk, and the wire muſt terminate in ſome metallic conductor of ſuch a form as ſhall be thought moſt convenient. But it is dangerous to raiſe it upon the approach of a thunder-ſtorm; and upon this occaſion the common apparatus for drawing electricity from the clouds will probably anſwer every intended purpoſe.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

OF LIGHTNING, AND OTHER METEORS.

TO know that lightning and the electric matter are the ſame, is a great ſtep in natural philoſophy; but we muſt ſtill remain ignorant of the cauſes of many of the appearances which accompany lightning, ſo long as our acquaintance with the properties of electricity is ſo very imperfect. We know that the clouds are almoſt always electrified, ſometimes poſitively, and ſometimes negatively; but whence, or by what means, they acquire that ſtate; whether by the heating or cooling of the air, upon the Tourmalin principle, whatever that may be, or whether the clouds be only the conductors by which the electric matter is conveyed through the air, from places in the earth where it is redundant, to other places where there is a deficiency, cannot eaſily be determined. The firſt is the conjecture of the well known Mr. Canton; and the latter is the chief propoſition in the theory of that great philoſopher Sig. Beccaria of Turin. It is probable that both circumſtances may conduce to the effect; the heating or cooling of the air may produce, or rather collect, that electricity, which is ſo great an agent in atmoſpherical events, and its diſcharge may be

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effected in the manner in which Signior Beccaria has, with great probability, ſuppoſed it to be accompliſhed.

F The recent diſcovery of Sig. Volta, of the electricity of vapors, or elaſtic matter raiſed into the atmoſphere by fire or otherwiſe, is a moſt capital advance towards the perfect knowledge of the cauſe of the electric ſtate of clouds, miſts, and the like. For vapors, carrying off a larger portion of electricity than when in the fluid ſtate, muſt conſtantly give out a part of the ſame (346, D) when they arrive in the ſuperior and colder regions of the air, where they become more condenſed, and form clouds. Clouds and rain will therefore naturally have the poſitive electricity, though a cloud, when once formed, may, by its influence on neighbouring clouds, cauſe them to become negative (321, O), by imparting not only their natural ſurplus, but even more to the earth.

G A thunder-ſtorm uſually happens in calm weather. A dark cloud is obſerved to attract others to it, by which it continually increaſes in magnitude and apparent denſity. When the cloud is thus grown to a great ſize, its lower ſurface ſwells in particular parts towards the earth, ſometimes by light flimſy clouds, and ſometimes by an inferior protuberance. During the time that the cloud is thus forming, flaſhes of lightning are ſeen to dart from one part of it to the other, and often to illuminate the whole maſs; and ſmall clouds are obſerved moving rapidly, and in very uncertain directions beneath it. When the cloud has acquired a ſufficient extent, the lightning ſtrikes the earth in two oppoſite places, the path of the lightning lying through the whole body of the cloud and its branches.

That thunder-clouds frequently do nothing more than conduct the electric matter from one place to another, is not only probable, on account of its ſtriking in two places, but likewiſe from the conſideration, that the emiſſion of the flaſh would deſtroy the electric ſtate of the clouds, if it were not immediately recruited from ſome other part. But the electric ſtate is not deſtroyed after a flaſh, if we may judge either from the electric apparatus, or from the cloud itſelf; for the firſt appears to be not leſs electrified, and the latter is the next moment ready to make as great a diſcharge as before. Beſides, if the two flaſhes of lightning, which ſtrike at different places, nearly at the ſame time, were ſimple, ſimilar, and independent diſcharges of the cloud, why ſhould they reſemble each other? and yet they do very much, as appears by obſerving a thunder-ſtorm at a diſtance. Then it is ſeen, that if one part of the cloud give a ſingle flaſh, the other extremity will give, or rather receive, a ſingle flaſh a ſhort time or the inſtant after; but if it give two, three, or four quick ſucceſſive flaſhes, the other extremity will receive a like number a little, but very perceptible time after. The angular diſtance between the places of theſe correſpondent flaſhes is frequently four or five points of the compaſs.

I It is remarkable, that moſt detached clouds, whoſe angular heights are but ſmall, and which conſequently may be viewed in profile, are variouſly arched at their upper ſurface, while their under ſurface is horizontal. This appearance is particularly obſervable in thunder-clouds, and alſo takes place in the ſmoke of reſin, or ſteam of water, electrified by the common machine.

K Whatever may be the cauſe that diſturbs the equilibrium of the electric matter in the atmoſphere, it may eaſily be conceived, that when ſuch diſturbance happens in the upper, and highly rarefied regions of the air, the equilibrium will be reſtored by dartings and electric coruſcations through the vacuum, ſimilar to thoſe exhibited in the vacuum of the air-pump. This conſideration accounts for the aurora borealis, which has commonly a motion of darting or undulating between two oppoſite parts of the heavens.

L In clear and calm weather, when the electricity is not very ſtrong, it may paſs through the air without bringing any great quantity of vapours into its courſe, and, according to the conductors it meets in the air, it will ſometimes be rendered viſible for ſmall parts of its paſſage, and occaſion thoſe appearances which we call ſhooting-ſtars. It is obſervable, that ſhooting-ſtars, ſeen at any time, in general all direct their courſe the ſame way.

The balls of fire, as well as the ſhooting ſtars, M occaſionally ſeen in the air, ſeem to be maſſes of electricity, at ſo great a diſtance that their angular velocity is not ſufficient to prevent the eye from diſcerning their ſhape. It is probable that every electric ſpark or flaſh of lightning conſiſts of one or more balls of fire, though their extreme velocity preſents them to the eye under the form of a line or lines (1, 259, o).

The ignis fatuus, or Will-with-the-wiſp, is a N luminous meteor that ſeldom appears more than ſix feet above the ground. It is found chiefly about bogs, and is always in motion, varying both its figure and ſituation in a very uncertain manner. In the plains in the territory of Bologna, they are frequently very large, and give a light equal to a torch; and there are ſome places where one may be almoſt ſure of ſeeing them every dark night. It has been conjectured that theſe meteors conſiſt of inflammable air, which has been kindled* by electricity.

It was obſerved of water-ſpouts, that the con- Q vergence of winds and their conſequent whirling motion, was a principal cauſe in producing that effect (63, L); but there are appearances which can hardly be ſolved by ſuppoſing that to be the only cauſe. They often vaniſh, and preſently appear again in the ſame place: whitiſh or yellowiſh flames have ſometimes been ſeen whirling with prodigious ſwiftneſs about them; and whirlwinds are obſerved to electrify the apparatus very ſtrongly. The time of their appearance is generally thoſe months which are peculiarly ſubject to thunder-ſtorms, and they are commonly preceded, accompanied or followed by lightning, the previous ſtate of the air being alike in both caſes. And the long-eſtabliſhed cuſtom, which the ſailors have, of preſenting ſharp ſwords to diſperſe them, is no inconſiderable circumſtance in favor of the ſuppoſition of their being electrical phenomena. Perhaps the aſcending motion of the air, by which the whirling is produced, may be the current known to iſſue from electrified points; as the form of the protuberance in the ſea is ſomewhat pointed; and the electrified drop of water, heretofore mentioned, may afford conſiderable light in explaining this appearance.

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* Dr. Blagden has given a valuable ſtatement of facts and deductions reſpecting meteors of this kind in the Phil. Tranſ. vol. 74.

It is extremely probable that earthquakes owe their original to the diſcharge between a cloud and the earth, in a highly electric ſtate, or even between two clouds. They happen moſt frequently in dry and hot countries, which are moſt ſubject to lightning and other electrical phenomena; and are even foretold by the electrical coruſcations and other appearances in the air for ſome days preceding the event. Earthquakes are attended by no fire, vapor, or ſmell, which however could hardly fail to appear, if the common opinion, of their being occaſioned by a ſubterramous exploſion; now the effect of an exploſion of this nature would be a gradual lifting of the earth, after which it would fall again, and, no doubt, deſtroy or change the courſe of ſprings, and conſiderably alter the face of the country: the contrary to all which is true; for, as far as obſervation can determine, the ſhock of an earthquake is inſtantaneous to the greateſt diſtances, and ſeldom does more miſchief than overthrowing buildings.' Earthquakes are uſually accompanied by rain, and ſometimes by the moſt dreadful thunder-ſtorms. All theſe, and many more circumſtances, but eſpecially the almoſt inſtantaneous motion of the ſhock, induce us to look for their cauſe in electricity, the only power in nature that acknowledges no ſenſible tranſition of time in its operations.

Dr. Prieſtley, in his Hiſtory of Electricity, Q has given an abridgment of Dr. Stukely's obſervations and inferences on this ſubject, and has himſelf ſhewn, by experiment, that the electric ſhock cauſes a vibration ſimilar to that of an earthquake, when it paſſes at or near the ſurfaces of bodies.

It may be here obſerved, that the knowledge R we have of the properties of electricity has been acquired, for the greater part, within the laſt half-century; and that if diſcoveries proceed as rapidly as they have began, it may be hoped, that a ſimilar period will afford a more perfect acquaintance with the influence of electricity not only on atmoſpherical events, but likewise on magnetiſm, vegetation, muſcular motion, and other appearances, in which, it is more than probable, this great and active power has a ſhare.

THE END.

I N D E X

TO THE

SECOND VOLUME.

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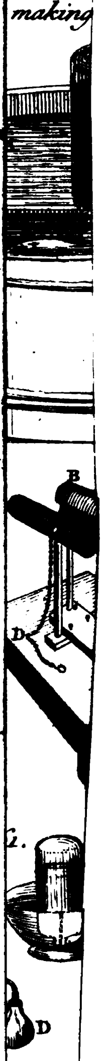
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